

W H I T M A N  
P U B L I S H I N G  
C O M P A N Y

Subsidiary of Western Publishing Company, Inc.

1 2 2 0 M O U N D A V E N U E • R A C I N E , W I S C O N S I N



September 3, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Glad to hear you are back from your vacation in Mongolia. I can't imagine why anyone would want to spend a vacation there, but I'll bet it was very interesting. Hope we can get together soon so you can tell me all about it.

The quotation in Coin World did come indirectly from me. It is reported in my English catalog on page 30 under the penny section. By the way, I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the new third edition which was released just last week.

The information about genuine English coins being melted and used by counterfeitors was taken from Peck's book, ENGLISH COPPER, TIN, AND BRONZE COINS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM 1858-1958, 1960, page 214. Several citations are given confirming this statement.

Gould's article was, of course, completely irresponsible as usual. Only farthings and halfpennies were made in 1749, and the large shipment of these that came to this country were used to pay expenses incurred by Massachusetts on account of the expedition against Cape Breton. This is reported in "Crosby" on pages 226-229.

Your suggestion about writing an addendum to our book is a good one. There is not too much additional material to add at this time, but certainly something is needed.

Starting the first of next year we will have a perfect place to publish material of this nature. WHITMAN is entering the monthly publication field, and the first issue of our magazine, entitled the Whitman Numismatic Journal, will be mailed on December 16. I am presently in the throes of putting material together and laying the groundwork for this publication.

We want to make this a high-level magazine with worthwhile articles that will supplement information given in all of our catalogs and books. Current prices will be recorded for users of the GUIDE BOOK, etc., and new issues will be reported for users of the World Coin Catalog. We want to include supplementary information and material which is too lengthy to go into the catalogs as well as worthwhile articles on all numismatic subjects.

I would very much like to use your proposed article on the '04 dollar for the first issue. This means we haven't much time left to put it together, but then it should not take a great deal of effort. I would also like to call on you occasionally for stimulating articles similar to those that you have released to other publications.

My summer was pleasant and uneventful. We vacationed in New England and drove through Canada to add to the enjoyment.  
Kindest personal regards.

'sever,



Ken Bressett  
Numismatic Editor  
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

December 13, 1963

Mr. Don Taxay  
New Netherlands Coin Company  
1 West 47th Street  
New York 36, New York

Dear Don:

This weekend I will look at the microfilm of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, published in Philadelphia, in 1798. It is a copy of the third English edition with a few American articles and I presume one of those articles is the one on our Mint.

I appreciate you letting me use this picture in the supplement to the Fantastic 1804 for which you will get due credit - unless someone else called it to your attention. Please advise.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

October 23, 1963

October 23, 1963

Mr. Harmer B. Cole, Sr.  
177 W. River Dr.  
Pennsville, N. J. 08070

Dear Harmer:

Your interesting letter of October 15, 1963 on 1804 dollar matters is most appreciated. I believe you can realize what problems there were in writing such a book.

Although the DuPont family eventually answered my letter graciously I was never permitted to see the coins. The Cohen dollar is, I believe, artificially abused to make it look as though it was in circulation and, apparently, is not over another coin. However, an examination would be helpful in this case.

You asked why Parmelee mentions nothing about it. The Seavey catalogue, as I pointed out on page 103, has a picture of an altered coin and Parmelee did acquire two genuine ones thereafter, one of which he sold off before his collection was auctioned off. I believe I wrote enough about the Cohen dollar, if you will check the index, but since I have no facts that it is over another coin there was nothing to comment about.

I will probably exhibit something in the Philadelphia convention, in December, but will not attend.

As to the differences you point out between the Watters dollar and the Siam dollar, I believe most of these are caused by the position in which the photographs are published and that there are no die differences between them.

If you think there is a possibility of the Cohen dollar being over some other piece you would have to have the cooperation of the DuPont family and I will look forward to a report from you in the event you discover anything. Frankly, I have done so much work on the 1804 dollar I have neglected many other research projects and would be delighted to have somebody else make some new discoveries.

-2-

October 23, 1963

Mr. Harmer B. Cole, Sr.

It was a pleasure hearing from you, as always, and I am at least glad that some of you really read the book carefully.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/a tb

October 29, 1963

Mrs. Margo Russell  
Coin World  
P.O. Box 150  
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Margo:

On page 75 of the November 1 Coin World you published a talk given in 1904 by Geoffrey C. Adams about the 1804 dollar. This talk was highly inaccurate and part was quoted on page 98 in "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" where the citation to a publication in the September, 1904 Numismatist is given.

I think you might send Mr. Anthony J. Fiore, of Farmingdale, New York, a copy of this letter as it seems wrong to publish something without giving appropriate credit to its source.

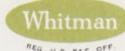
Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

BC-Mr. Ken Bressett

W H I T M A N  
P U B L I S H I N G  
C O M P A N Y



Subsidiary of Western Publishing Company, Inc.

1 2 2 0 M O U N D A V E N U E • R A C I N E , W I S C O N S I N

November 13, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I have no idea whether or not the sale of the Wolfson dollar was legitimate. He told me, shortly before his death, that he definitely intended to sell it, and I believe that a transfer of ownership did take place. What the price was, or who received the piece, is anybody's guess. I am afraid we will have to record this piece as "undisclosed."

Goldsmith's in Canada reports having a '04 dollar for sale. A friend of mine is pushing for all of the information possible, and there is a slight chance that I will have an opportunity to examine this coin. There is no question in my mind but that it must be a phoney, but I would like to verify this assumption.

Best wishes to all of the family. How was your daughter's wedding last month?

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

*Kenneth E. Bressett*  
Kenneth E. Bressett  
Numismatic Editor

6A

KEB:ca

# Whitman Numismatic Journal

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN 53404



R. S. YEOMAN

Editor-In-Chief

K. E. BRESSETT

Managing Editor

NEIL SHAFER

Associate Editor

ED METZGER

Advertising Mgr.

December 9, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

It was certainly nice to hear from you and to learn that you have been hard at work once again on the subject of the 1804 dollar!

I have a nice picture of the top of the Siam box which we can use. There is no need to forward your picture.

I also have a nice picture of the <sup>in</sup>underside of the box, but do not feel that it would be entirely possible to identify the coin varieties from this photo. At any rate, I don't think it would be of exceptional value to even try to report on particular varieties. It would, of course, be important to note that the half dollar is not one of the crushed edge restrike pieces, and whether or not all of the other pieces are original proof or specimen strikings. I will send you my picture if you think it necessary. It is probably the same one that you have, however,

Sincerely,

WHITMAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Managing Editor

KEB:ca

Dec 14, 1963

Dear Don:

I examined on microfilm the 1798 Encyclopaedia and the picture of the Castaing machine. Unfortunately your source gave you the wrong data. The article is copied straight from the British edition of the Encycl., the picture is English as the dies show a George III coin. And to top off the entire subject the article in the American edition was actually published in 1792, six years before its ~~XMKXIXXXIXM~~ printed published date. Those skunks in 1792 post dated their book so it would be current by the time all volumes were finished. It began in 1790 and the Coinage article was out in 1792. The U.S. Mint had not even opened by the time this article was published. The explanation of the operation of the Castaing machine is very much in order and I may use this in my "Updating the Fantastic 1804 Dollar" article.

Yours in the exciting field of research,

Eric P. Newman

December 19, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I am enclosing what I have written on the 1804 dollar matter to supplement the book. Please read it and if you have any suggestions I will be glad to hear them.

If it published, it might be published as a separate part of your magazine which can be removed and inserted into the book. You may have additional published material which you wish to have included in the appreciation.

I have tried to be humorous with respect to Mr. Bareford and can assure you he will never speak to me again. I have tried to be tactful with respect to Messrs. Stack and Schulman, while punching them in the nose.

I am also admitting an error as to the 1804 Eagle because I was deceived by the silver one and had never seen a gold one.

My very best wishes for the Holidays.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



ST. LOUIS 30, MISSOURI

December 20, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

We acknowledge with thanks your recent gift:

The Fantastic 1804 Dollar by Eric P. Newman  
and Kenneth E. Bressett.

Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*John M. Strecker*  
John M. Strecker  
Chief of Acquisitions

JMS:sc

# Whitman Numismatic Journal

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN 53404



R.S. YEOMAN  
Editor-in-Chief  
K.D. BINGHAM  
Managing Editor  
NEIL SHAFFER  
Associate Editor  
ED METZLER  
Advertising Manager

December 30, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

This is just a quick note to tell you that your typescript concerning additions to the 1804 book has arrived. I glanced at it, because of my great interest in the subject but must confess that I have not been able to read it in the whole, which must be done before I can comment on it.

Please forgive my negligence and give me a few more days to get caught up on end-of-year business. After that time I will go through your work and get active on this project once again.

The article seems to be very interesting, and I am certain I can use it in the JOURNAL - perhaps in the March issue.

Happy New Year to you!

'sever.

WHITMAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Ken Bressett  
Managing Editor

KED:ca

# Whitman Numismatic Journal

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN 53404



R.S. YEOMAN  
Editor-in-Chief  
WILLIAM G. SHARPE  
Managing Editor  
NATHALIE SCHAFFER  
Associate Editor  
EDWARD Z. LEVY  
Advertising Manager

January 22, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
400 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

This letter is much too long overdue, and I trust you will find it in your heart to forgive me for putting off what turned out to be the very enjoyable task of wading through your manuscript.

I like it very much! As usual, there is little that can be said in the way of improving upon your work. I know that you will probably want to rearrange some of the material and polish it up a bit before publication. There is certainly nothing technically wrong with what you have done, and the only comment that I can make is that which I have said before. I certainly believe that it would be far too egotistical on our part to include the chapter in appreciation of all of the reviews.

On page seven you have toned down the fact that Haseltine described only one variety of the 1804 Dollar. I feel certain that he must have known about the two varieties, and on page 91 of our book you have described it as a "deliberate omission."

I have a photograph to illustrate the top of the Siam case. This can be used with the article when published in the magazine.

Unfortunately the 1804 book is one of a scant half dozen books in our line which are larger than the format of the WHITMAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL. The page size of our JOURNAL was intentionally designed to be that of most of the books in our line. When the 1804 article is run in the JOURNAL it will be in a section that can be cut from the magazine and inserted in the 1804 book. Unfortunately, the page size will be wrong, but there is nothing that can be done to remedy this.

Full speed ahead with the project, and when this is done, I hope that you will be able to do a few other short articles for us!

"sever

WHITMAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Managing Editor

KEB:ca

January 24, 1964

Mr. Don Taxay  
New Netherlands Coin Company  
1 West 47th Street  
New York 36, New York

Dear Don:

Whitman has asked me to put in final form  
new matters relative to the 1804 dollar book.

I would like to have from you the source  
of your statement to me that the 4 came off the  
Favata piece in the course of cleaning when  
the owner had it.

I also would like to know if it is positive  
that it was in the hands of the Secret Service  
before the ruling in alterations was changed.

Thanks.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

ESW/atb

Jan. 20, 1964

Dear Eric,

Thank you ~~xxxxx~~ for the new enclosures. You probably have forgotten, but it was I who called the Randall article to your attention a few months ago. As for writing about your nickel, I frankly would not know what to say. The laboratory report is indeed fantastic, but what does it mean? That the coin was struck from a home-made alloy outside the Mint? That the Mint ran out of tin and was using nickel to alloy its bronze? That the Melter and Refiner was non-compliant? Your guess is as good as mine -- or perhaps better, depending on what it is. I would like very much to run a test on a 1913 Liberty Head nickel, but who would be fool enough to lend me their specimen. Stack's? Perhaps one of the owner's of this coin would trust you sufficiently to allow it to be lent out? What do you think?

Then you were here last, you will recall, that we talked turkey for a while about Ben Franklin. I have since had the opportunity to go through all the Longacre material, and can add the following: Years before Longacre worked at the Mint he was selected to design the plates for a book on the lives of the Continental Congressmen. He was told, in this connection, that when Congress, in 1782, was in the process of choosing the eagle as a heraldic supporter to the shield, ~~xxxx~~ Franklin jocularly proposed the rattlesnake and the wild turkey as being more appropriate. Although Longacre treated the anecdote as reflecting Franklin's humour, there ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ are nevertheless two sketches of turkeys (from the head up) among Longacre's drawings of eagles. If you care to use this information, be my guest, but kindly do not pass it on, as the price of research is too high!

In your first ~~Rugxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ article on the Com. Dols. you say that there is no pertinent information on them in the JCC. What about the PCC and Morris' diary for 1776? Have you personally gone through these two items? Kindly let me know as I intend to research this thing through to its conclusion.

By the way, do you know the nature of Stack's conspiracy ~~xxxxxx~~ conviction, and do you think it would be possible for Arco's lawyers to get copies of this data from the Govt.?

Favata sold the 1804/02 dollar to a man named Heller, who, in attempting to darken the coin in a solution of liver of sulphur, lost the ~~xxxx~~ lettered 4. It was this Heller who called the Treasury Dept. Favata sold the coin to him after he had received your letters stating that the coin was an alteration, and after I had so published it in Coin Wholesaler, a copy of which he had obtained from Margo Russell. I do not recall the entire chronology of the affair, nor is it necessary, for I am informed that a precedent was set in a western court, many months ago where a man was convicted of ~~xxxx~~ possessing a numismatic alteration, under the regular alteration law. The Government's stand will be that the law always existed and that a "non enforcement" of it by the Treasury department does not ~~xxxxxx~~ or did not ~~xanderxxix~~ constitute its non-existence. In short, they do not consider the new interpretation as ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ rendering previous cases ex post facto. It is a dubious approach, but they have this precedent and apparently feel that the case will not suffer in this respect. I just learned yesterday that Cappola tried to make a quick sale of the piece, or rather a trade, for gold ~~xxx~~ coins at the Chase Money Museum. It is very important that none of this be published or otherwise bruited about because they have not as yet pinched Cappola and are playing the whole thing with great adroitness. If you cannot hold up your 1804 dollar supplement for a few months, I would ask that you say no more than that the coin was advertised by Messrs. Capolla and Favata, and subsequently (and also previously) debunked. But leave the Government out of the picture. Otherwise it will put me in a bad light as I am their confident in the matter.

I will look forward to your Nummatist article, together with the pun.

I assume Wlater is getting married since he has said so. Subscription price for his scale is \$5. I hope I have ~~not~~ presented a sufficient array of topics to still retain your interest.

Best  
Tom

p.s. I have just read the first installment of your article. Very, very interesting.

## MEMORANDUM

February 3, 1964

---

TO Mr. Don TaxayFROM Eric P. Newman

---

Dear Don,

I will fumble my way along with the 1804 Dollar matter so as not to upset any confidences as I have no intention of mentioning names. All I wanted to say is that the h fell off, just as another h did on another coin many years ago. I will be quite discrete.

As to the 1913 nickel in the copper-nickel 95-5 combination, I imagine this was an experimental planchet made in the Mint to see what would happen if the copper content was increased substantially.

As to borrowing a 1913 Liberty Head nickel for the purpose of content testing, no one would give one to me because they could guess what I would be out to prove. I think we can assume that those coins are 75% copper and 25% nickel as they look exactly the color of regular nickels. My thought was that you would use the laboratory report as the basis of an article about the copper one, but I want to read the lab report first. I may be in New York on February 10.

EPN/atb

February 14, 1964

Dear Randy,

Would you be nice enough  
to send me Item 475 from Coin  
List 119, which I just received.  
A check is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Mr. Randolph Zander

# EDWARD R. BARNSLEY, NUMISMATIST,

Collector of American Colonial and State Coins, Member of ANS, ANA, and MANA.

111 S. STATE ST., NEWTOWN, PA.

TELEPHONE: WORTH 8-2098



February 18, 1964

Dear Eric:

I got to New York City last Friday and spent a precious half-day tracking down that 1807 "Coin Dealer". All of the NYPL 19th Cent. newspapers are now at a new location as you can see by the enclosed leaflet, and I had a heck of a time finding the right paper. At last I came up with the following three advertisements from the NEW-YORK EVENING POST, Saturday, February 7, 1807:

Spanish Dollars.- The highest premium given for Spanish Dollars, by Nathaniel Prime, 42 Wall Street.

Dollars Wanted.- The highest premium given for Spanish Dollars, by Lebleus Loomis, 45 Wm. Street.

Spanish Dollars.- The highest premium given for Spanish Dollars, at No. 37, Wall-street, opposite the Branch Bank by William Leffingwell.

Well I guess such fruitless research is what helps keep numismatics ticking! I only bought two lots at the stack Sale one of which was the nice set of four Connecticut brokages and double strikes (lot 249).

Faithfully yours,

Ned Barnsley

February 19, 1964

Mr. Randolph Zander  
3217 Martha Custis Drive  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Randy:

I received the trial piece from the Thonnelier Press and was disappointed to find that it did not have a date on it. You indicate that this piece is listed in V Guilletaux 2796, and I am wondering if you can send me a Xerox copy of the portion of the listing referring to the item.

The reason I need it is that I am writing a slight supplement to "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar", and want to point out that the experimentation of the Thonnelier process took place in 1830, even though it was not written up, officially, until about 1833. Of course, if the date, 1830, is merely a guess, then I will be brokenhearted.

The piece is definitely struck in a smooth collar and has raised flat borders and beading around the inside of the borders.

If you do not have an Xerox available, perhaps you could copy out the text, if it is short. I would be most grateful.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPM/atk

bc

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

RANDOLPH ZANDER

FOREIGN COINS, MEDALS  
AND NUMISMATIC BOOKS

3217 MARTHA CUSTIS DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302

23 Feb 64

Dear Eric -

The ~~coin~~ piece is illustrated on the 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> of two pages, the first of which has the heading "ESSAIS 1830-31." Most of these ESSAIS are not dated.

The piece is listed in the catalogue under a group (2792 - 2810) of ESSAIS, sandwiched between the TYPES COURANTES 1830 & the TYPES COURANCES 1831.

Nowhere, however, is there an explicit statement that these ESSAIS were struck in 1830-31.

I wonder if a note to VINCHON or BOURGEOY might not produce the desired information in usable form? The introduction to Louis Philippe's coinage in VG is all political, not a numismatic work - the 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pp. So one must go elsewhere.

I much regret failing to provide the ironclad data that you need - the aren't there.

Absurdly .

Ran

S.P.W

April 22, 1968

Mr. Barlow Burke, Prothonotary  
284 City Hall  
Philadelphia 7, Penna.

Dear Mr. Burke:

In accordance with my telephone conversation, I am very anxious to locate the file of Civil litigation in the Common Pleas Court in Philadelphia under the style "James v. Dexter vs. Chapman Brothers". I do not know the number of the case. I do not know the court to which it was assigned. I do know that it was set for trial on February 14, 1887. It apparently was filed in 1886 to have reached a trial date by February 14, 1887. It is possible that the defendants could have been Samuel R. Chapman and Henry Chapman instead of Chapman Brothers.

If you have no index, it occurred to me that the court docket or minutes on February 14, 1887 would show some action with respect to the case.

I would be very grateful for your cooperation in locating this file.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

S.P.W/stb

cc  
Mr. Kenneth Bransett

179  
April 22, 1964

Clerk of the United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Sir:

Would you be kind enough to look in your index of cases for 1866 to determine whether a case under the style of James V. Lester vs. Chapman Brothers was filed in the Federal District Court in Philadelphia. I do not have its number. "Chapman Brothers", the defendant, consisted of Samuel H. Chapman and Henry Chapman. The case was to be tried on February 11, 1867 and was postponed. If the court minutes of that date are available perhaps that might be the simplest method of locating the case number. If you have an index of plaintiffs and defendants, then, naturally, that would be easier.

Unfortunately I do not know whether the case was filed in a State or Federal Court and would appreciate your courtesy in looking up this matter as to whether it was filed in the Federal Court.

I will appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC F. NEWMAN

EIN/abt



OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY  
COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS, COUNTY COURT, Civil Division

D. Barlow Burke, Prothonotary • Benjamin C. Clark, Principal Deputy • Americo V. Cortese, Second Deputy

ROOM 284, CITY HALL, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

April 24, 1964

Eric P. Newman, Esq.  
400 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box No. 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Re: JAMES V. DEXTER vs. CHAPMAN BROTHERS

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am having a search made of all of the dockets of the Courts of Common Pleas for the years you mention, for the above action. The fee for this will be \$10.00, payable by cash, check or money order to the order of the Prothonotary. It will expedite the search if you will remit the fee promptly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "Barlow Burke".

D. BARLOW BURKE  
Prothonotary

April 27, 1964

Mr. D. Barler Burke, Prothonotary  
Courts of Common Pleas  
Room 284, City Hall  
Philadelphia 7, Penna.

Re: James v. Dexter vs.  
Chapman Brothers

Dear Mr. Burke:

Enclosed is the check for \$10.00 which you requested and if you find the case I would like a copy of the petition or complaint.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL P. NEWMAN

E.P./a tb

CLERK'S OFFICE  
ROOM 2004  
W. HALTON SPANN, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
U. S. COURTHOUSE  
NINTH & MARKET STREETS  
PHILADELPHIA, 19107

TELEPHONE  
WA-2-4380

April 28, 1964,

Eric P. Newman, Esq.  
400 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

RE: James V. Dexter vs. Chapman Brothers,  
filed at rox. 1<sup>st</sup> 30.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of April 22, 1964, please be advised that the records "minute and docket books, etc., " of this office prior to the year 1911, have been forwarded to the Archivist Office of U. S. Courts, National Archives Washington, D.C., on or about December of 1956.

Very truly yours,  
JOHN J. HARDING,  
Clerk

  
John J. Harding  
Deputy Clerk

May 5, 1964

Archivist's Office of the United States Courts  
National Archives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I am desirous of obtaining copies of the petition and answer in the case of James V. Dexter vs. Chapman Brothers (Samuel T. Chapman and Henry Chapman) filed in the Federal Court, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1886 or possibly 1885.

The only definite date I have is that the matter was set for trial on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1887 but was continued or dismissed of.

Would it be possible for you to look at the index of cases, or the minute book for February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1887, to see if this case can be located. If so, would you be kind enough to advise me of the fee for the photocopies. This information is being sought in connection with an historical article I am writing.

I would be grateful for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY  
COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS, COUNTY COURT, *Civil Division*

D. Barlow Burke, Prothonotary • Benjamin C. Clark, Principal Deputy • Americo V. Cortese, Second Deputy

ROOM 284, CITY HALL, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

May 5, 1964

Eric P. Newman, Esq.,  
400 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box No. 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Re: JAMES V. DEXTER vs. S. HUDSON CHAPMAN and  
HENRY CHAPMAN, JR. t/a S.H. AND H. CHAPMAN, JR.  
C. P. No. 4, March Term, 1886 No. 468

Dear Mr. Newman:

The case in which you are interested has been located under the above Court, term, year and number.

I enclose herewith certified copy of the complaint in this matter. Your fee was sufficient to pay for the search and also this copy; and our cashier's receipt for \$10.00 is also enclosed.

The case did not go to judgment. It was discontinued, and so marked on the dockets.

Very truly yours,

*E. V. Moran*

for: D. BARLOW BURKE  
Prothonotary

Enc.

In the Court of Common Pleas, No. 61, ss. one thousand eight hundred  
and eighty-eight, Term, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, on the 1st day of May, 1888,  
S. Hudson Chapman and Henry Chapman, Jr., co-partners trading as  
S. H. and H. Chapman, Jr.,  
Philadelphia, ss.

S. Hudson Chapman and Henry Chapman, Jr., co-partners trading as  
S. H. and H. Chapman, Jr.,

Defendants, to the Plaintiff, S. Hudson Chapman, Jr.,訴  
late of the County aforesaid, were attached to answer  
at the special instance and request of the said Plaintiff, on the 10  
instant last year, to have and defend their cause against the  
said Plaintiff, to the Plaintiff, S. Hudson Chapman, Jr., to  
answer, if he had received the sum of One thousand dollars, &c., by reason  
of a plea of trespass on the case, &c. Whereupon the said James V. Dexter

D.C.A.

by Thomas DeWitt Cuyler his Attorney complain  
for that whereas, heretofore, to wit: on the Fourteenth day of May 1885  
at the County aforesaid, in consideration that the said Plaintiff,  
at the special instance and request of the said Defendants, would  
buy of the said Defendants, a certain Silver Dollar of the year  
1804, at and for a certain price or sum of money, to wit: the sum  
of One thousand dollars, to be therefore paid by the said Plain-  
tiff, they the said Defendants, undertook and then and there faith-  
fully promised the said Plaintiff, that the said Silver Dollar of  
the year 1804 then was a true and genuine Silver Dollar of the  
year 1804, coined during that year. And he the said Plaintiff  
evera, that he, confiding in the said promise and undertaking of  
the said Defendants, did, afterwards, to wit: on the day and year  
last aforesaid, to wit: at the County aforesaid, purchase the said  
Silver Dollar so represented as aforesaid, of the said Defendants,  
and then and there paid them for the same the said sum of money,

to wit; the sum of One thousand dollars, nevertheless, the said Defendants, contriving and intending to deceive and defraud the said Plaintiff in this behalf, did not perform or regard their said promise and undertaking so by them made as aforesaid, but thereby craftily and subtly deceived and defrauded the said Plaintiff in this, to wit: that the said Silver Dollar of the year 1804, was not a true and genuine Silver Dollar of the year 1804, coined during said year, but on the contrary thereof, was a re-strike, coined at a later and subsequent date, and a Silver Dollar of no use or value whatever to the said Plaintiff, whereby the said Plaintiff hath lost and been deprived of the use and benefit of the said Silver Dollar and of the sum of money paid for the same; and the said Plaintiff hath sustained great trouble, expense and loss, to wit: the sum of Five thousand dollars, to wit at the County aforesaid, and therefore he brings suit.

**And also,** For that Whereas the defendants on the Fourteenth day of May \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty five \_\_\_\_\_ at the County aforesaid, were — indebted to the plaintiff in Five thousand dollars, for goods then and there sold and delivered by the plaintiff to the defendants at their — request:

**And also,** in the further sum of Five thousand dollars, for goods then and there bargained and sold by the plaintiff to the defendants at their — request:

**And also,** in the further sum of Five thousand dollars, for work then and there done, and materials for the same provided by the plaintiff for the defendants at their — request:

**And also,** in the further sum of Five thousand dollars, for money then and there lent by the plaintiff to the defendants at their — request:

**And also,** in the further sum of Five thousand dollars, for money then and there paid by the plaintiff for the use of the defendants at their — request:

**And also,** in the further sum of Five thousand dollars, for money then and there had and received by the defendant for the use of the plaintiff

**And also,** in the further sum of Five thousand dollars, for money found to be due from the defendants to the plaintiff on an account then and there stated between them:

**And also,** in the further sum of Five thousand dollars, for interest then and there due and payable, for the forbearance by the plaintiff at the defendants request, for moneys before then due and owing from the defendants to the plaintiff

**And** the defendant afterwards, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, at the County aforesaid, in consideration of the several last mentioned premises, respectively then and there promised the plaintiff to pay him — the said several last mentioned moneys respectively, on request; yet the defendant has disregarded their promises and has not paid any of the said moneys, or any part thereof, to the damage of the plaintiff

dollars.

And therefore ~~he~~ brings suit, &c.

John Doe, }  
Richard Doe, } Pledges, &c.

Thomas Newell Cushing  
for Jeff

Certified from the record this FIFTH  
day of MAY A.D. 1964

D. EARLOW BURKE  
*Prothonotary*

By A H Vollmer

Joint of Common Pleas, No. 1

4  
C. C. Term, 1886

James P. Anderson

John Adams Chapman  
et al. vs.

Common Pleas Court of Massachusetts, Boston

Mr.

To the Prothonotary of said Court:  
Notice is given on Defendant in above  
case to plead in eight days or judg-  
ment, see reg'

Massachusetts

MED JUN 19 - 1886

IMPORTANT

This document has been borrowed

from the Records Storage Center

Box 4261

May 8, 1964

Archivist's Office of the United States Courts  
National Archives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

You will be pleased to receive this letter.

The request I made in my letter of May 5, 1964 to have you locate the pleadings in the case of James V. Dexter vs. Chapman Brothers, in the Federal Court in Philadelphia in 1886 is cancelled. I have located the pleadings.

In view of the conscientiousness with which your office has always given service to those of us who do research, I am glad that you are relieved of this particular request.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/sbt

May 6, 1964

Mr. D. Barlow Burke, Prothonotary  
Court of Common Pleas  
Room 284, City Hall  
Philadelphia 7, Penna.

Re: Dexter v. Chapman  
C. P. No. 4 -  
March Term, 1886  
No. 468

---

Dear Mr. Burke:

Thank you, very much, for locating the detail of the above-mentioned case and sending me a certified copy of the complaint.

While I understand that the case did not go to judgment, I am wondering whether there was an answer filed on behalf of the defendants and, if so, I would like to obtain a copy - unless it is merely a general denial. I would also like to have the name of the attorney who represented the defendants if the file shows that data.

If there are any other pleadings, I would appreciate being advised so that I can order them.

Your cooperation is most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPM/etb



OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY  
COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS, COUNTY COURT, *Civil Division*

D. Barlow Burke, Prothonotary • Benjamin C. Clark, Principal Deputy • Americo V. Cortese, Second Deputy

ROOM 284, CITY HALL, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

May 12, 1964

Eric P. Newman, Esq.,  
400 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box No. 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Re: DEXTER vs. CHAPMAN  
C. P. No. 4, March Term, 1886, No. 468

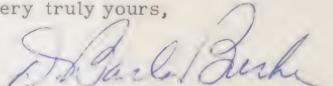
Dear Mr. Newman:

This will reply to your letter of May 8th with further reference to the above matter.

I am having a photostat copy made of the docket entries in this matter, which will show you the process of the case. The fee for this will be \$1.50.

There would appear to be four papers in the file, which, although they are not in the best condition, we will have copied for you upon payment of the fee of \$2.00 each, or a total of \$9.50 for them and the docket entries. We will appreciate receiving the costs in advance, by cash, check or money order.

Very truly yours,

  
D. BARLOW BURKE  
Prothonotary

May 13, 1964

Mr. D. Barlow Burke, Prothonotary  
Court of Common Pleas  
Room 284, City Hall  
Philadelphia 7, Penna.

Re: Dexter vs. Chapman  
C.P. No. 4 - March Term, 1886  
No. 445

Dear Mr. Burke;

Enclosed is a check for \$9.50 for the four documents in the above-mentioned file and for the photostat of the docket entries.

I will appreciate you sending me these papers promptly.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

b:m/atb

# GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

---



*National Archives and Records Service  
Washington 25, D.C.*

May 13, 1964

IN REPLY REFER TO: NCRD

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
400 Washington Avenue  
Post Office Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 1964, which cancelled the request made in your letter of May 5, 1964, for information related to the case of James V. Dexter Vs. Chapman Brothers.

We are always pleased to assist you in your research efforts.

Sincerely yours,

*W. Neil Franklin*

W. Neil Franklin, Chief  
Diplomatic, Legal, and Fiscal Branch

Office of the  
Prothonotary of the Courts of Common Pleas  
and  
Clerk of the County Court, Civil Division

D. BARLOW BURKE  
PROTHONOTARY & CLERK  
  
BENJAMIN C. CLARK  
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY  
  
AMERICO V. CORTESE  
SECOND DEPUTY

ROOM 284, CITY HALL  
PHILADELPHIA 7

May 14, 1964

Eric P. Newman, Esquire  
400 Washington Avenue  
P.O.Box 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Re: JAMES V. DEXTER v. S. HUDSON CHAPMAN, ET AL  
C.P.#4, March Term, 1886, No.468

Dear Sir:

are copies Docket  
Enclosed herewith is certified copy of the decree  
Entries, Praecept, Plea, Summons & Rule  
issued by the Court in the above-entitled case.

Very truly yours,

*M. H. Sullivan*  
for: D. BARLOW BURKE  
Prothonotary & Clerk

Encs-Cert.Copies-Dockt.Ent.,  
etc.

232  
MARCH TERM, 1886.—C. P. No. 4.

John T. Dexter

and Chapman and  
Chapman, Jr.

John T. Chapman, Jr.

vs. 1886. Bank of Boston

and 1912. 210 - 211

1886. No. 100

This case is discontinued,  
Cross & Willoughby  
Attorneys  
for Plaintiff  
and Chapman, Jr.

John T. Dexter

Ex parte 1886.  
Petition April 1886.  
Service accepted.

1886. Bond for cost in  
action affixed \$100.

Certified from the record this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of May A.D. 196

D. BARLOW BURKE

Prothonotary

By G. H. Vollmar

John G. Linn  
Linnell, Oregon and  
the lower Columbia River  
July 1911 *R. H. Beck*  
July 1911

Part 3

Certified from the record this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of May A.D. 1964

D. BARLOW BURKE

*Prothonotary*

By James P. Marton

4668 Dec. 2, 1936

John G. Johnson

THE JOURNAL OF

TO THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, GREETING:

The **D**ominion of Canada at **B**eenfield **H**ill **A**rmouria

COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, SS.

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

WE COMMAND YOU,

late of your County, so that be and appear before our Judges, at Philadelphia, at our Court of Common Pleas,  
No. , for the County of Philadelphia, to be helden at Philadelphia, in and for said County of Philadelphia, the first  
Monday of July, next, there to answer

8. 1/2 oz. of sassafras  
a few sprigs of bay leaves

Monday of

Next, we turn to answers

Witnesse, the Honourable  
President of our said Court, at Philadelphia,  
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight  
hundred and eighty.

*Prothonotary.*

*Prothonotary.*

Witnesse, the Honourable  
President of our said Court, at Philadelphia,  
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight  
hundred and eighty.

Certified from the record this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of MAY A.D. 1964

D. BARLOW BURKE

*Prothonotary*

By JAMES P. Poston

Court of Common Pleas No

Wes. Term, 1886

Law

Summons.

John D. Gossard  
Gossum & Gossard  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
vs.  
John D. Gossard  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Gossard

Sam'l. V. Nisbet

(C. L. V. Nisbet)

Mar 2 1888

S. Hudson Chapman Esq.

Ab. 4228

The Party of Seven in their joint

Places into a suit upon the City for the case to be  
Decided in due & judicious way.

Attest, R. C. Gray

Pro dicitur

Gray 18 1888

S. P. G. L. R.

Certified from the record this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of May A.D. 1964

D. BARLOW BURKE

*Probator*

By James P. Malone

Paris  
London  
R.R.

Mr. L. C.  
Dr.

U.S.A. & U.K.

Mr. & Mrs. —

May 1905

J. H. Lawrence

Mr. & Mrs.  
Lawrence

James W. Dickey  
Co.  
Linen Drapery  
Manufacturing Co.  
and Company

600 State  
Ave. N.W.

Washington D.C.

James W. Dickey  
Co.  
Linen Drapery  
Manufacturing Co.  
and Company

600 State  
Ave. N.W.

Washington D.C.

James W. Dickey  
Co.  
Linen Drapery  
Manufacturing Co.  
and Company

600 State  
Ave. N.W.

Washington D.C.

1900-1922  
1900-1922



# Whitman Numismatic Journal

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN 53404



R. S. YEOMAN  
Editor-in-Chief  
K. E. BRESSETT  
Managing Editor  
NEIL SHAFER  
Associate Editor  
ED METZGER  
Advertising Manager

RECEIVED

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
3450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Just a note to thank you once again for the perfectly marvelous day at your home. As usual, I was simply delighted with your unique hospitality and enjoyed every moment of my stay.

Under separate cover I have mailed the copy of Dye's Coin Book as promised and my book on early counterfeiting methods. Since the latter book was a gift to me, I would appreciate your returning it when you are finished. However, if it is vitally important to you I would be happy to pass it on to your fine reference collection.

Our Purchasing Agent is investigating the costs of having plastic holders made to your specifications. You will probably hear directly from the manufacturer, and can make your own arrangements and decision about the practicality of having him do your work.

I suddenly remembered where you can buy a quantity of the oblong Japanese coins for your counting board. These coins are called isshu gin and can be ordered by the roll through the following company: Bobco, Box 61, Otis, Indiana.

I will write to you again soon after I get information on the cast copy of the '04 dollar and other things that we discussed.

Many thanks again for all of the nice coins and paper money that you gave me. These make a nice addition to my meager collection.

'sever,

Ken Bressett  
Managing Editor  
WHITMAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

IMD:ca

May 26, 1964

Mr. Kenneth Bressett  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Thank you, very much, for exchanging the Dye's  
Coin Book as that gives me a pretty copy instead of a  
reading copy.

I am returning, under separate cover, your  
Early Book on Counterfeiting, which was fascinating, but,  
since it relates to European items, it does not belong in  
my collection.

You were very nice to investigate the plastic  
envelope matter and tell me about the fact that rolls  
of Japanese coins can be obtained from the man in Indiana.

I have finished the New York section, just for  
practice, and look forward to hearing from you as soon  
as you have had a chance to talk to your associates.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

E.P.N./atb

May 28, 1964

Mr. Kenneth Bressett  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Des Plaines, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

In "Updating the Fantastic 1804 Dollar", I note that I did not indicate that page 14 should be inserted at the end of the section on page 15. Would you please indicate that on the copy you have.

I am also enclosing a new section to be inserted at an appropriate place.

I would, naturally, like to check the proof of this material when it is available so as to make a correction or two before issuance.

Your contribution to this organization in connection with this work is appreciated.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

Certified from the record this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of January A. D., 1964

D. BARLOW BURKE

*Prothonotary*

By D. Barlow Burke

May 28, 1964

Mr. Kenneth Dressett  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Nound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

In "Updating the Fantastic 1804 Dollar", I note that I did not indicate that page 14 should be inserted at the end of the section on page 15. Would you please indicate that on the copy you have.

I am also enclosing a new section to be inserted at an appropriate place.

I would, naturally, like to check the proof of this material when it is available so as to make a correction or two before issuance.

Your contribution to this organization in connection with this work is appreciated.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/kbb

June 15, 1964

Mr. Kenneth Bressett  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

Re: "Updating the 100s"

Dear Ken,

In your letter of June 3 you asked me to clear up my instructions about pages 14 and 15.

Page 14 goes into the space before the title on page 15.

I think an additional picture of the counting board in Evans would be interesting to include. If you think so, take a picture of Evans and insert it.

If there is going to be any proof for me to read, please get it to me as fast as you can as I will be vacationing at the end of the month.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/ato

P.S. Thank you for the Japanese information.

June 29, 1964

Dear Ken:

Please thank Dick and yourself for the new Red Book which indicates considerable effort to add and correct the old edition. Pretty soon you will have improved it so much that there will be nothing much to add for the Standard Catalogue( if that ever happens)

The galley proofs of the UPDATING are enclosed and because I am such a flyspecker I have made expected of me. At least one correction gave the changes where "liter" instead of "liver" was used concerning "augh Favata alteration.

I presume that you will put captions under the illustrations.

When this is published I would like to have 35 copies of the monthly or if it is divided into two portions than 35 copies of each.

I will see all of you at the Cleveland convention but of course will have communicated with you often before then/

Thank you for having been so cooperative with respect to this UPDATING and I hope there is enough general interest in the article to satisfy your public.

Kindest personal regards ,

Eric P. Newman

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME *M. F. Johnson*

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS:

Unless Contacts Ordered, KP Will Be Made

**EXPERT PHOTO FINISHING**

**JUMBO PRINTS**

8 EXPOSURE ROLL 4 x 6

12 EXPOSURE ROLL 4 x 4

12c

**HAVE YOUR BEST  
SNAPSHOT  
ENLARGED**



DEV.

PRINTS *12c*

ENL.

**ENLARGEMENT PRICE LIST**

**TOTAL**

SIZE	SW GLOSSY	DW DULL	TINT	EXTRA
4x6	.25	.35	.90	
5x7	.55	.65	.90	
6x10	.85	.95	1.15	
8x10	.85	.95	1.15	
11x14	1.35	1.60	2.50	

Add seventy-five cents to above price list  
if made from pictures.

Responsibility for loss or damage limited to cost of film before exposure

~~3902-18~~

~~45~~

~~X<sub>1</sub>X<sub>1</sub>  
X<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>~~



APRIL 1974  
1974 PHS  
1974









## PROTHONOTARY

RECEIPT

D. 039192

4

C.P.

MAY TERM, 1886

NO. 468

*Muel**bunch*

5 00

*col comb*

5 00

*Freeman*

CLERK

TOTAL

16 00

## PROTHONOTARY

D-040849

RECEIPT

C.P. 4

Mar TERM, 1986

NO. 468

att DF

" Practice  
 " Plea  
 " Summons  
 Rule

950

Mar

Newman

CLERK

P

TOTAL

950









case, plus a sharp U. S. coin save or you like, plus a copy of the relevant Libb Graph, I will appreciate it. I will send you the article inspection before I submit it to the Numismatist.

Really, Jud. Is so goofy. He says that Patterson died in 1852, ending the Patterson-Langlade feud. Actually, Patterson only retired in that year -- and not even from the Mint, but only as Director, because the protests of Philadelphians over his administration. He claimed he was retiring for reasons of health, but immediately installed himself as Chief Clerk under Director Eckert and continue his malignant designs. At other times, Patterson served as Acting Director and Acting Assayer. ~~taxes~~ He resigned from the Mint when Snowden came in, but in 1803 was still trying to set Langlade fired! The expenses of the Continental Congress under the Board of Treasury are vague and do not tell us what we want to know. There is no mention of gallows, or dies, or a Mint or anything else, but there are many sundries called out, on which now exist numerous these

Jan 1919  
A. H. W. Num Monthly  
Vol. 2 No. 1

We can only show our appreciation to all our subscribers by simply giving the best possible journal,—not for the money,—but the best our efforts can produce, regardless of our low subscription price. As previously mentioned, we will gladly send without charge extra copies of the Monthly to all subscribers wishing to distribute them among their friends, or will send sample copies of the Monthly direct from this office to names furnished us. You know we will greatly appreciate the favors, and we know that your friends will be equally thankful.

---

We learn from a clipping sent us by Mr. C. A. White that an 1884 Trade Dollar recently sold for \$284. The coin, however, can hardly be classed as a regular issue, since its issue was not, we believe, authorized, and the existence of this coin was not known until the collection of the late R. K. Idler of Philadelphia was sold. This collection, it is said, contained five specimens of this coin. No others are known.

---

It is indeed gratifying to know that one's efforts are appreciated. It is not the applause nor praise that gratifies so much, but the fact that the efforts have been successful. At the outset, when the first number of the MONTHLY appeared, our efforts were set to make it a truly representative Numismatist's Journal. How well we have succeeded can be easily noted from the nu-

"Ne  
Them,  
six sh  
of coi  
the six  
up wit  
"Isn  
"Yes  
our se  
"So  
and w  
revers  
"My  
of cou  
"No,  
consid  
should  
piece."  
"But  
are m  
access



Feb 1887  
Vol 1 No 5

# THE American Numismatist

EDITED BY C. E. LEAL.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

United States,	- - - - -	50 cents
Foreign Countries,	- - - - -	60 cents
Single Numbers,	- - - - -	5 cents

ADVERTISING TERMS.

	1 Insertion.	3 Insertions.	6 Insertions.
$\frac{1}{2}$ Inch,	\$ .50	\$ 1.25	\$ 2.00
1 Inch,	.80	2.00	3.25
$\frac{1}{2}$ Column 4 inches,	3.00	7.50	12.00
1 Column,	5.50	14.00	22.50
1 Page,	10.00	25.00	40.00

Not more than 60 words printed in an inch advertisement.

TERMS—Cash in advance. All advertisements, exchange notices, etc., intended for publication in our next number must reach us before the 25th of this month. Subscribers will confer a great favor by remitting by postal note, money order or registered letter, instead of postage stamps.

Address all communications to

CHARLES E. LEAL & CO.,  
149 Ellison Street, Paterson, N. J.

Entered as Second-Class matter at the Paterson Post Office.

FEBRUARY, 1887:

Our readers will no doubt notice one or two alterations in this issue, which we hope are for the better. In the first place we have changed our printer, and hereafter THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIST will be printed in this city instead of at a distance. This we hope will enable us to appear promptly on the first of each month instead of in the latter part as heretofore. We have experienced considerable delay and inconvenience in making this change, hence our lateness.

We have also changed our cover, and should like to know whether it is an improvement or not. It is much more durable, and we think shows to better advantage.

We refer all who have written us in regard

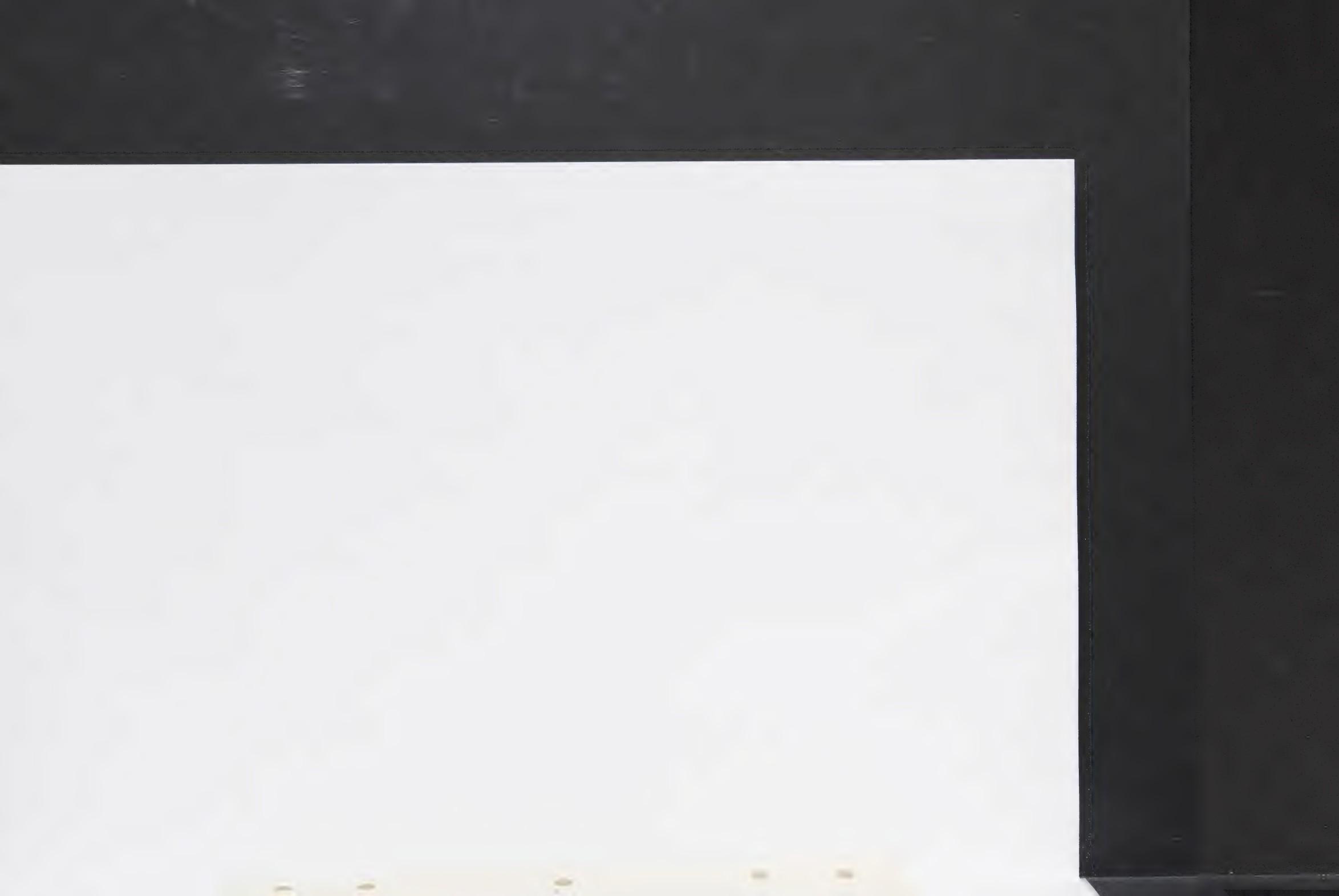
of the cabinets mentioned by him can be made for a small sum, and will no doubt answer exceedingly well for a collection of moderate dimensions; they would perhaps not be exactly suitable for a large collection, but any person who has spent the time and money necessary to obtain a large collection of coins does not as a rule require any advice on the subject of their arrangement.

Mr. E. R. Marshall of Wyoming, Iowa, whose advertisement appeared in our last issue, desires us to state that his Directory, the "Peerless," will be issued sometime in March instead of in February. He intends to eclipse all previous efforts in that line, and will give a free copy to each collector whose name is inserted.

THAT 1804 DOLLAR.

The case of Dexter *versus* Chapman Bros., which was to have been tried on February 14th, at Philadelphia, has been postponed. This trial is of more than ordinary interest to Numismatists as it is to determine whether the 1804 Dollar offered and guaranteed as authentic at one of Chapman's sales, a year or more ago, was a genuine issue of that date, or not. It is maintained by all experts that *no Dollars dated 1804 were struck in that year*; but it is an established fact that they *have* been struck on several occasions since 1827, from differently engraved dies.

Mr. William J. Stillman contributes a most interesting article to the March number of the *Century*, entitled "The Coins of the Greeks." It is beautifully illustrated with seventy-five fac-similes of the genuine pieces in the collections of the British Museum, Alexander Balmano, Gaston L. Feuardent, and several other gentlemen. The same magazine also contains quite a lengthy editorial in which the coinages of the ancient



## The Edge Lettering Device

Since the ~~Cast-a-pounds~~ <sup>very fine</sup> ~~are not used enough~~  
~~the edges~~ <sup>(p. 22)</sup> ~~are~~ are so important to the  
study of the 1804 dollar, ~~further~~ <sup>(p. 22)</sup> clarifying  
~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> eighteenth century explanation of  
its use ~~is~~ is both corroborative and  
clarifying. The fact ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~any~~ <sup>specie</sup> ~~was~~  
~~published~~ <sup>first edition 1791</sup> in America was ~~the~~  
primarily a result of the ~~encyclopedia Britannica~~  
The ~~Encyclopaedia~~ <sup>1791</sup> was printed in Philadelphia ~~in~~  
In part, beginning in 1790 and ~~was completed by~~ <sup>by</sup> 1791 which  
latter date it bears. The article on ~~Coinage~~ <sup>see</sup> ~~was~~  
~~one of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~highest~~ <sup>original</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>most</sup> ~~before he~~  
~~printed in 1791~~ <sup>1791</sup> ~~U.S. Mint was established.~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~  
~~portion~~ <sup>portion</sup> ~~relative~~ <sup>relative</sup> to the ~~coinage~~ <sup>coinage</sup> machine (vol. 8, p. 130) ~~read~~ <sup>read</sup> as follows:

copy

A crude illustration of the  
~~Cast-a-pounds~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~found~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>Volume 5</sup>  
~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~Plate 142~~ <sup>follows</sup> ~~page~~ <sup>5</sup> ~~214~~

1020 MINT-BELLAIRE, TEXAS

On getting up we were glad to find the  
weather still 85°, more comfortable than  
any time I had no diamond weather.

1834	Half Dollar	$208\frac{3}{4}$ gr ✓
1834	Quarter	$103\frac{1}{4}$ gr ✓
1834	Dime	$42\frac{3}{4}$ gr. ✓
1834	Cent	$159\frac{1}{2}$ gr. ✓
1834	$\frac{1}{2}$ cent	84 gr.
1834	$\frac{1}{2}$ eagle	$128\frac{3}{4}$ gr. ✓
1834	$\frac{1}{4}$ eagle	$64\frac{3}{4}$
1804	eagle	$270\frac{1}{2}$
1804	dollar	$415\frac{1}{2}$ ✓

# THE Scholarshop

Evans # 2486

3348D

7809 FORSYTH • CLAYTON 5, MISSOURI • PARKVIEW 5-3456

Encyclopaedia or a Dictionary of Arts  
Sciences and Miscellaneous Literature

Phila 1798 (Actually 1790-98)

COINAGE

Vol 5 p.130

[This vol  
Actually printed 1792]

Plate CXLIV Fig 1 Casting  
pp p Fig 2 Screw Press  
284 Fig 3 Axis

These dies are English as the  
head of George III + Rev of Sir Cai  
Shows on the dies

The principal parts of the machine (Fig 1) to strike coins  
on the edge, are two steel laminæ, about a line thick. One  
half of the legend, or of the ring, is engraved upon the thickness &  
one of the laminæ, and the other half upon the thickness of the other;  
and these two laminæ are straight, although the dielet  
marked with them to be curved.

When they stamp a planchet, they put it between the  
laminæ in such a manner, so that these being laid flat upon a  
hard flat upon a copper-plate, which is fastened upon a very  
thick wooden table, and the planchet being laid flat upon  
the same plate, the edges of the planchet may touch the two laminæ  
on each side, and a thin thick pat

(over)

On NY look up

Phila Arch & Num Soc No 9 Vol 2  
A - N Vol 24 What does it have

V. Guillotaux # 2796

Annuale 1679-1742 272 Années de Numismatique Française  
Francesca 1830

Essais divisionnaires

* 2796	MODULE 25 CENT	As	Pré	Rx pré
		Module 15 (bona)		Bronze
			Liassé	
			prix 10.-	Jan 1942

Also

Also Module	of 2fr	100v	Module de la Paix de 1748 France
		(en	Epoque des Guerres d'Amérique
		1fr	" " 1 Franc
		1fr	" " 1 Franc
		25 cent	" " 1 Franc

I'M MY CUZ-IN-LAW  
as it might be sung by Linda or Peter

(Tune: "I'm My Own Grandpa")

Just about four years ago - when Hope was twenty-two  
She was married to her Julian - who had travelled East to woo.  
Hope had a cousin Peter - who was a Harvard square  
And Julian had a peppy niece - kept under Bryn Mawr's care.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We both were at Hope's wedding - but considered not each other.  
We acted just as coolly as - a sister and a brother,  
But in due course we met again - and then the fun began -  
Incest couldn't stop the love - of Newman-Solomon.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We both have Uncle Irvings and Auntie Esthers, too  
We find there are three Sidneys - two Janes we have for you.  
And Who is Charlie Edison? - he is three different men,  
They're all our second cousins - though we know not how or when.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We just have given wedding vows - at Westwood Country Club  
And all of those who witnessed it - can see that there's a rub  
There are so many relatives - the family tree's so fat,  
There still is some confusion - as to whom we were begat.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

So Stop and Shop at Baker's - across from A & S  
And send your kids to Brandeis - and avoid a family mess  
But when your offspring marry - be sure their choice is free  
And pluck some little cherub - from another family tree.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

On NY look up

Phila Arch & Num Soc No of Philo  
A.R. get 25 what does it have

V. Guillotaux # 2796

Nouvelle <sup>1879-1972</sup> France 272 Annees de Numismatique Francaise  
1830

Essais bimennuels

\* 2796

MODULE 25 CENT

4<sup>th</sup> piece

Ex prie

Module 15  
(Centimes)

bronze

base

price 100 June 1943

More -

plus Volumes of 2<sup>nd</sup> part (200 Modules de la Place de la France  
des Epaves des navires Napoléon

Illustrated

1/4

1/4

1 franc

10 cent

-1

1 franc



I'M MY CUZ-IN-LAW  
as it might be sung by Linda or Peter

(Tune: "I'm My Own Grandpa")

Just about four years ago - when Hope was twenty-two  
She was married to her Julian - who had travelled East to woo.  
Hope had a cousin Peter - who was a Harvard square  
And Julian had a peppy niece - kept under Bryn Mawr's care.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We both were at Hope's wedding - but considered not each other.  
We acted just as coolly as - a sister and a brother,  
But in due course we met again - and then the fun began -  
Incest couldn't stop the love - of Newman-Solomon.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

We both have Uncle Irvings and Auntie Esthers, too  
We find there are three Sidneys - two Janes we have for you.  
And Who is Charlie Edison? - he is three different men,  
They're all our second cousins - though we know not how or when.

I'm my Cuz-in-law  
I'm my Cuz-in-law  
It sounds funny I know  
But it really is so  
Oh I'm my Cuz-in-law

"I just have given wedding vows - at Westwood Country Club  
of those who witnessed it - can see that there's a rub  
    or relatives - the family trees so fat

May 1964

Reaumur

Essai de la Presse Montante de l'Ingenieur Sapeur  
1837

EUGÉNIER

Philtre à la finition  
~~à savoir dans les deux extrémités~~  
Copper 5 fr. size

STOCKHOLDER'S BALLOT

EDISON BROTHERS STORES, INC.

MEETING OF DOMESTIC STOCKHOLDERS ON APRIL 27, 1968

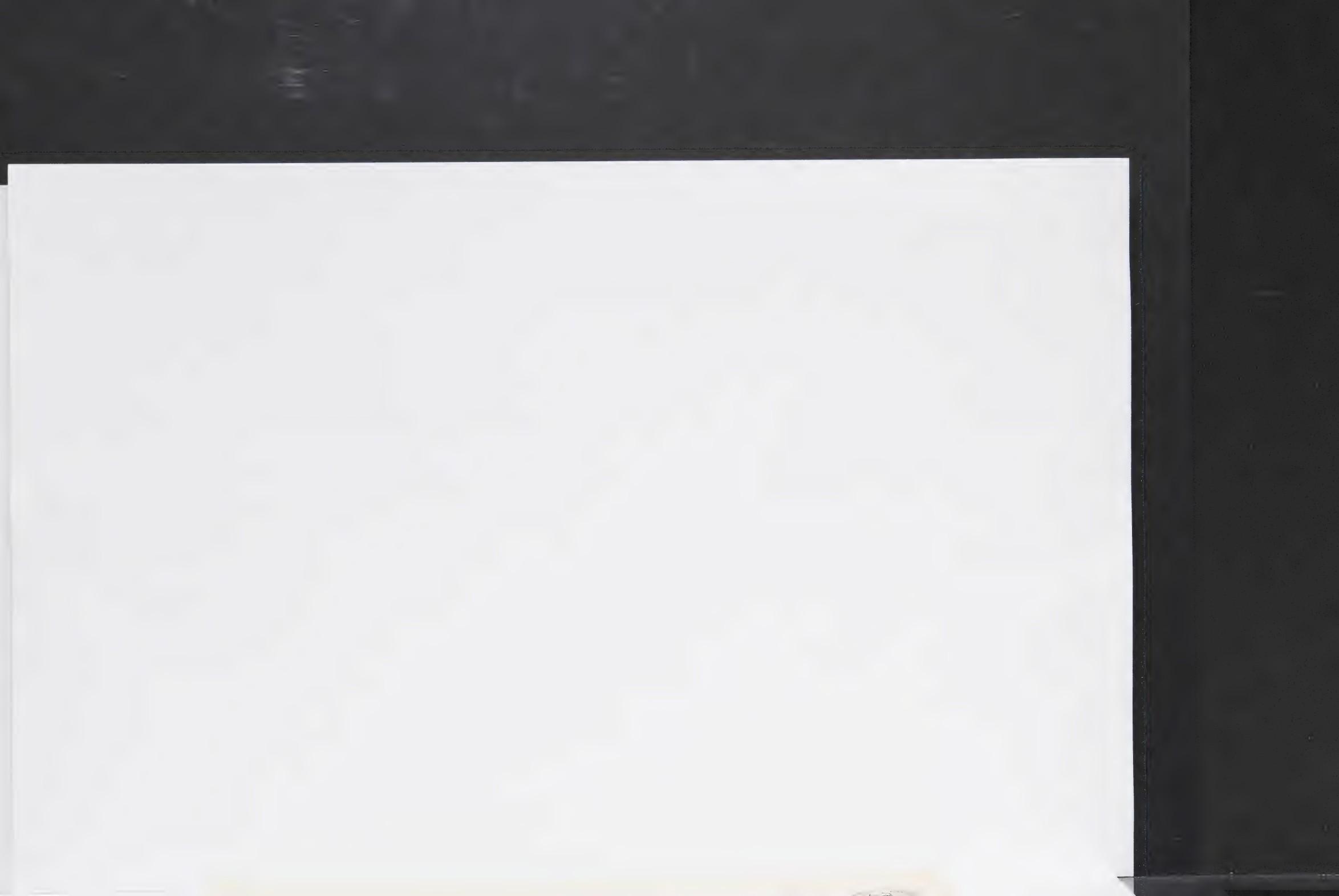
Election of Directors

<u>NOMINEES FOR DIRECTORS</u>  (Twelve to be elected)	<u>SUMMER OF SHARES VOTED*</u>  In Person or by Proxy
Harry Edison	_____
Irving Edison	_____
Simon Edison	_____
Samuel B. Edison	_____
George Frankenthaler	_____
Roy J. Osgoodson	_____
Irving Halle	_____
Alfred T. Leimbach	_____
Charles B. Edison	_____
Bernard A. Edison	_____
Samuel D. Demoff	_____
Morris Natelson	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Signature of owner of record or  
of proxy holder

\*Unless otherwise designated all shares shall be construed to have been voted in favor of each of the above-named nominees.

wt 333 sp gr. 10.4





M

To ST. LOUIS STAMP & CO. Dr.

B. G. JOHNSON, Prop.

408 OLIVE STREET



*These Goods Are Sent on Consignment and Approval and the Title in the Consignor Does Not Pass Until They Are Paid For.*

*Recette*

Fond Magritte  
10 cuillères de fromage râpé au  
mélange de la recette + mélanger le  
fromage au lait brûlé. 125 gr.  
Algerte Monastique Tonnes 100 gr.  
p 165-45

Teasing the Public

In 1885 George G. Evans, in preparing his Illustrated History of the United States Mint created an amusing teaser by virtue of the raging controversy about the 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar. In explaining United States Mint procedures, the use of the counting board as an efficient method in counting coin, was described and pictured. His illustration showed a counting board filled with 60 coins. One might assume that the coins which he selected in 1885 to use in such a picture would be contemporary mintage but, strangely enough, he used all 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollars. At a time when Morgan dollars were current and the Seated Liberty design was discontinued, the use of the old bust type was a surprise. It could not have been inadvertent. Since counting boards were not adopted by the United States Mint until long after 180 $\frac{1}{2}$ , this makes the illustration even more incongruous. The conclusion is inescapable that Evans was poking a little fun at the 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar by illustrating a large mass of them on the counting board. He was laughing at the intense excitement about 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollars which was manifest in numismatic circles in 1885.

The 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollars which he illustrated even have a border at their circumference, rather than dentilation, thus having the same tell-tale discrepancy as the 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar dies. This provocative illustration is found on page 40 of every subsequent edition of the Evans book and shows that a sense of humor always has a place.

UPDATING THE FANTASTIC 1804 DOLLAR

by Eric P. Newman

Whenever a book is written, particularly when on a controversial subject, readers have the opportunity to make their comments in reviews, letters, books, articles, and by discussion. With respect to "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" there was no dearth of such commentary. The authors likewise continued their research. Readers are therefore entitled to have a summary of all such matters to amplify and clarify the book. To coordinate these items, references are given to the specific pages where related matter is found in the book, published

The Siam 1804 Dollar

The revelation in 1962 of the 1804 Siam dollar in its presentation set (p.66) will rank as one of the great surprises in American numismatics and its publication deservedly received the Heath Literary Award. (David B. Spink and James C. Risk, "New Facts about an Old American Coin", The Numismatist, Vol. 75, No. 11, Nov. 1962, p. 1443; The Numismatic Review, Vol. III, No. 5, 1962, p. 217).

In the summer of 1962, in England, David Spink arranged for the writer to have the opportunity to examine the Siam specimen of the 1804 Dollar along with the other presentation coins. (The Numismatist, December, 1962, p. 1610; Coin World, December 14, 1962, p. 42). It was noted that the 1804 dollar specimen was so clear that it showed that the reverse die

The Law Suit

It is a "great rarity" when legal proceedings are filed in court to determine whether a coin is genuine, but the 1804 dollar is honored with this unusual distinction. James V. Dexter, who purchased his Class I 1804 dollar in the Chapman sale of May 14, 1885 (p.124) filed suit on June 19, 1886 in the Court of Common Pleas No. 4 of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania (March Term, 1886, No. 468) against S. Hudson Chapman and Henry Chapman, Jr., copartners trading as S. H. and H. Chapman, Jr. Dexter's attorney was Thomas DeWitt Cuyler. The complaint read as follows:

~~This is my suit against~~  
the Defendants, heretofore, to wit; on the nineteenth day of May, 1807,  
at the County aforesaid, in consideration that the said Plaintiff,  
at the special instance and request of the said Defendants, would  
buy of the said Defendants, a certain Silver Dollar of the year  
1804, at and for a certain price or sum of money, to wit; the sum  
of One thousand dollars, to be therefore paid by the said Plaintiff,  
they the said Defendants, undertook and then and there faithfully  
promised the said Plaintiff, that the said Silver Dollar of  
the year 1804 then was a true and genuine Silver Dollar of the  
Year 1804, coined during that year. And he the said Plaintiff  
avers, that he, confiding in the said promise and undertaking of  
the said Defendants, did, afterwards, to wit; on the day and year  
last aforesaid, to wit; at the County aforesaid, purchase the said  
Silver Dollar so represented as aforesaid, of the said Defendants,  
and then and there paid them for the same the said sum of money.

to wit; the sum of One thousand dollars; nevertheless, the said  
Defendants, contriving and intending to deceive and defraud the  
said Plaintiff in this behalf, did not perform or regard their  
said promise and undertaking so by them made as aforesaid, but  
thereby craftily and subtly deceived and defrauded the said Plaintiff  
in this, to wit: that the said Silver Dollar of the year  
1804, was not a true and genuine Silver Dollar of the year 1804,  
coined during said year, but on the contrary thereof, was a re-  
strike, coined at a later and subsequent date, and a Silver Dollar  
of no use or value whatever to the said Plaintiff, whereby the  
said Plaintiff hath lost and been deprived of the use and benefit  
of the said Silver Dollar and of the sum of money paid for the  
same; and the said Plaintiff hath sustained great trouble, expence  
and loss, to wit: the sum of Five thousand dollars, to wit at  
the County aforesaid, and therefore he brings suit.

The Chapmans had first planted this coin in a German sale in 1884 to make it appear to have been found in Europe and bought it in from themselves (p.92). To add to the devilment it is clear from the foregoing text that in 1885/<sup>when</sup> the 1804 dollar was allegedly auctioned by the Chapmans it was sold at an arranged price rather than pursuant to bona fide bidding. When one adds to these connivances the written Chapman statement, "We guarantee it genuine," it becomes evident that the Chapmans were properly accused in the complaint of crafty and subtle intent to deceive and defraud.

The existence of this law suit was found recently by serendipity in the course of a casual reading of an issue of an obscure short-lived magazine, Charles E. Leal's The American Numismatist for February, 1887 (Patterson, N. J. Vol. I, No. 5). In a squib entitled "That 1804 Dollar" the editor stated:

"The case of Dexter versus Chapman Bros., which was to have been tried on February 14th, at Philadelphia, has been postponed. The trial is of more than ordinary interest to numismatists as it is to determine whether the 1804 Dollar offered and guaranteed as authentic at one of Chapmans' sales, a year or more ago, was a genuine issue of that date, or not. It is maintained by all experts that no Dollars dated 1804 were struck in that year; but it is an established fact that they have been struck on several occasions since 1827 from differently engraved dies."

The case was never brought to trial, but was settled out of court with Dexter retaining his Class I 1804 dollar. If Dexter's right to interrogate Mint officials and the Chapman Brothers had been insisted upon perhaps his law suit would have been notorious instead of remaining unknown.

break extended further than was noticeable on other Class I pieces (p.42), / ~~This~~ break across the top of NITED continuing across the top of the wing tip and under the first S in STATES. The break was in the course of ~~certainly caused by~~ hardening of the die by immersion in liquid by use. rather than ~~in the course of the hardening of the dies~~ All other characteristics of the Siam Dollar conformed with those of other Class I pieces. The weak and crushed edge lettering reads upright when the obverse is upright.

All coins found in the Siam Presentation Set have brilliant proof surfaces. They weigh as follows:

1834 Half Cent	110 grains
1834 Cent	159-1/2 "
1834 Dime	122-3/4 "
1834 Quarter	103-1/4 "
1834 Half Dollar	208-3/4 "
1804 Dollar	417-1/2 "
1834 Quarter Eagle	144-3/4 "
1834 Half Eagle	128-3/4 "
1804 Eagle	270-1/2 "

The half dollar has a normal milled edge and its border dentilation extends to the edge on each face. It is from different dies than the proof 1834 half dollar with crushed edge lettering. (p.59).

#### The Siam Coffin

The Presentation Case holding the coins for the King of Siam was an attractive piece of morocco leather workmanship embossed with an American eagle and other insignia. The original yellow color has darkened where exposed to a dull golden brown color. / ~~This~~ 6-1/8 inches long, h-5/16 inches deep, and 1-1/16 inches high, ~~it~~ has a seven pointed gold thumb piece for opening. / ~~It~~ the leather, the body of the

\*

Presentation Case is wood which is lined on the inside with dark blue velvet so that the original official reference to the case as a "coffin" was gruesomely accurate. (See illustration of the top).

#### Authorization Problems

As to whether anyone had specifically intended a silver dollar or an eagle, or both, to be included in the set of coins to be presented to the King of Siam and the Imaum of Muscat, it was important to check on the authorization for the language of the letter dated November 11, 1834 from the Secretary of State to the Director of the Mint (p.63) where it was said that "The President has directed that a complete set of the coins of the United States be sent to the King of Siam and another to the Sultan of Muscat."

An examination of the papers of Andrew Jackson, in the Library of Congress and in the Archives of the United States, disclosed no written directive, instruction, or comment relative to the gift of coins. The communication from the President to the Secretary of State, therefore, must have been oral.

The question as to whether Mint officials were authorized, in 1834, to prepare new dies for an 1834 dollar/~~and~~<sup>xxviii</sup> eagle depends upon the meaning of the words "complete set" and "specimens of each kind now in use". It was shown in the discussion of this matter (p.64) that silver dollars and eagles were not actually in use in November, 1834. Assuming that (No. P.) Assuming the directive was/interpreted to require a requirement dollar and an eagle ~~to~~ included in the set, this could have been satisfied (1) by including an existing dollar and an existing eagle of any date in choice condition, and (2) by making new dies for both a dollar and an eagle, dating them 1834, and striking coins from them of proper weight and fineness.

The opportunity to study the Siam presentation set served to prove that the proof 1804 eagle was made for the set and weighed 270 $\frac{1}{2}$ . ~~It was made in violation of the Act of June 28, 1834, (effective July 31, 1834) requiring an eagle to weigh only 258 grains.~~ The proof 1804 Eagle, even though minted during November or December, 1834, was sized according to the repealed standard of the Act of April 2, 1792 which had provided that an eagle weigh 270 grains. The proof 1804 Eagle, therefore, violated the Act of June 28, 1834. The

legal standard for the weight of the silver dollar had not been changed between 1804 and 1834.

Neither the President, the Secretary of State, Director of the Mint, or any other person in the public service had the power to ~~violate~~ authorize or undertake any violation of any Act of Congress relating to coinage. It would therefore appear that the Mint officials exceeded their authority and violated the law (a) in placing other than the current date on coinage when, in 1834, they minted a proof 1804 Dollar and a proof 1804 Eagle, and (b) in using other than the proper legal weight in making the proof 1804 Eagle. They had

devilment in their hearts when they did it. The fact that they also made obverse dies for an 1802, and 1803 dollar before they made dies for an 1801 and 1804 dollar (p.56) indicates that they had intentions other than just filling Presentation Sets.

#### The Proof 1804 Eagle

The proof 1804 Eagle has identical edge milling to the half eagle, quarter eagle, quarter, and dime in the Presentation set indicating that the same edging dies were used in the Castaing machine for all of them. The proof 1804 Eagle was not struck in a collar die as evidenced by the fact that the

Demand for Silver Dollars

The discontinuance of dollar coinage by the U. S. Mint in 1804 was necessitated by the export of silver dollars by mercantile interests (p.21). Smaller silver coins although containing equivalent intrinsic silver value per dollar were not subject to <sup>pressure to export</sup> the same economic pressure. The demand for silver dollars continued for several years (p.22) and naturally related to full weight Spanish silver dollars as the availability of U. S. dollars was minimal. The three following advertisements in the New-York Evening Post for February 7, 1807 show the economic trend:

Spanish Dollars. - The highest premium given for Spanish Dollars, by Nathaniel Prime, 42 Wall Street.

Dollars Wanted. - The highest premium given for Spanish Dollars, by Lebleus Loomis, 45 Wm. Street.

Spanish Dollars. - The highest premium given for Spanish Dollars, at No. 37, Wall-street, opposite the Branch Bank by William Leffingwell.

The Thonnelier Coining Press

When Franklin Peale in May, 1833 was sent to Europe for two years by the U.S.Mint to study new production methods (p.30) he visited the Palais de Monnaie, the Paris Mint. Since the invention of the toggle press by Nicolas Thonnelier was not publicly announced until 1834 (p.31) one might wonder whether there was time for any of its features to be applied to equipment used in coining the Class I 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollars in 1834. The use of the collar die was one of the requirements of the Thonnelier toggle press and would have been one of the elements experimented with for use at the U.S.Mint. Since Class I 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollars were struck in a smooth collar die in 1834 it is important to know if the collar die mechanism used at the U.S.Mint could have been developed with the help of the reports which Peale forwarded from Europe.

In the listing by V. Guilletaux in Monnaies Francaises 1670-1942 the pattern coinage of France for 1830-31 includes 25 centimes, 50 centimes, 1 franc and 2 francs. A typical obverse reads "Module de la Piece de 25 centimes" (Diameter of a 25 centimes piece), and the reverse states "Epreuves des Presses Thonnelier" (Trials of the Thonnelier presses). These <sup>undated</sup> trials have a smooth edge formed by a collar die and a raised flat border around the dentils. [redacted] A copper trial piece dated 1833 with Louis Phillippe I on the obverse, and "Essai de La Presse Monetaire de Thonnelier Ingenieur 1833" on the reverse is further corroboration of the development date. All these trials <sup>(See illustrations)</sup> constitute evidence that Thonnelier's invention was in an advanced state of perfection well before Peale's visit and that the American adaptation of some of its features could well have been under test by 1834, even though the minting of regular issues by a toggle press and in a collar die did not take place until 1836.

•

1858 Mint Regulations

If there is any doubt that it was improper, in 1858, to strike 1804 dollars, or any other coin to be sold at a premium (p.75), the regulations issued by the Mint before the discovery of the Class II 1804 dollars are revealing. Pertinent portions of INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE TO THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS BRANCHES, published in 1858, by James Ross Snowden, Director of the Mint, are as follows:

\* 8. No profit can accrue to any officer, clerk, or workman of these institutions, by reasons of the legitimate operations thereof, and no private or extra official work can be done therein, with or without compensation or reward, by any such officer, clerk, or workman. If this rule be violated by any officer or clerk, the fact shall be reported to the Treasury Department. If violated by any workman, he will be forthwith dismissed.

16. The principal officer of each department of business will report to the Director (or Superintendent) any instance of neglect of duty, or want of fidelity, in any of the persons employed in his department, and also make a like report if he has reason to suspect the integrity of any person so employed. \*

In spite of the exposure of the scandal of 1858 relating to the 1804 dollars and the requirements of the regulations, there is no official report of the matter to be found and no dismissal of personnel resulted.

dentils on the right side of the obverse are larger than the dentils on the left, which would not occur in a piece struck in a collar die because centering would be perfect. There is no assertion (p.57) wire edge on the coin and the ~~statements on page 57~~ that the eagle was collar struck and had a wire edge can now be corrected.

The proof 1804 Eagle is also distinctive in that the its second highest star on ~~the~~ left side of the proof 1804 Eagle in the Siam set has a double cut point at 4 o'clock as do the other specimens struck from these antedated dies.

#### The DuBois Letter

The letter of William E. DuBois dated September 17, 1878 (p.96) giving an opinion on the Davis 1804 Class III dollar was illustrated and featured in the descriptive material in the sale of the Samuel W. Wolfson collection, held May 3-4, 1963, just as it was in the prior sales of the Davis 1804 dollar on April 8, 1954 and December 10, 1960. A further analysis seems appropriate as to ~~how~~ whether William E. DuBois made the error of diagnosing the Davis dollar as "one of the original issue - and not a 'restrike' from Mint dies."

The letter clearly shows that DuBois knew that there were two "specimens" of the 1804 dollar in the Mint Cabinet, one being a restrike (Class II) and the other being what DuBois termed an "original" (Class I). He ~~was~~ apparently unaware

that the reverse of the Davis dollar was from the same reverse die as the reverse of the Class II or restrike 1804 dollar in the Mint Cabinet and differed from the reverse die of the Class I piece. This die distinction ~~had already, had not~~ may not have been noticed by 1878 when he wrote the letter, ~~as Hazeltine did not even note this fact in 1851 in his classification of dollar die varieties (p.91)~~ although there was reason to consider this fact. ~~When Hazeltine published~~ It is possible that DuBois based his opinion as to the Davis piece on the fact that the Davis piece had a lettered edge just as the Class I Mint specimen did, whereas the Class II Mint specimen did not have a lettered edge. This does not excuse DuBois from being deliberately deceptive in the use of the words "original issue" even if he was in error in the conclusion he drew from the comparison of the Davis Dollar with the two Mint Cabinet specimens. He must have known the whole story of the origin of the 1804 dollars and should have attempted to use ~~so much~~ less whitewash in his letter. The facts still stand.

#### Barnum was Right

The Watters Class I 1804 Dollar which was originally given to the Imam of Muscat (pp.67,126) was the topic of a conversation, in England, in 1962, between Fred Baldwin and

the writer. Baldwin explained that Watters bought the 1804  
Dollar for six shillings from Maurice Eschwegge, a money changer,  
pawn broker, and coin dealer at 47 Lime Street, Liverpool. Most  
English ships docked at Liverpool in the 19th Century and some  
sailor or voyageur probably sold the coin for silver value at  
Eschwegge's exchange. Phineas T. Barnum, the great American  
showman, tried relentlessly to buy the coin from Watters for  
a spectacular exhibit in America, but Watters explained that  
the dollar would not be sold for any price since it was bought  
for practically nothing. Baldwin knew Watters well and had seen  
the 1804 dollar in his possession almost 60 years before.

#### Seizure Fears

In the 1884-5 period Edouard Frossard urged the prominent Philadelphia coin dealers to publish the whole truth about the restrikes of the 1804 dollars (p.91). John W. Haseltine and the Chapman Brothers were thus challenged but, nevertheless, remained silent. Twenty-three years later, at the 1908 American Numismatic Association Convention, Haseltine gave the explanation as to why he did not respond. He explained (The Numismatist, Vol. 21, No. 10, Oct. 1907, p.325): "Mr. Idler was my father-

in-law and he was very reticent about his collection. He would seldom show his coins even for sale. This was partially caused by the fear that any pattern or experimental coins he possessed might be seized. Hence the many remarkable pieces that have been found in his collection."

The fear of seizure could only exist because of Idler's knowledge of the improper activities of the Mint employes. He was the sales outlet for the Mint officials. Three 1804 dollars appeared first in Idler's hands (p.107). Thus, Idler's and Haseltine's real reason for failure to disclose the existence of the Idler 1804 Class III dollar until 1908 is clear and the other allegation of Haseltine that it was concealed because it was used for making restrikes was a lame excuse (p. 107). It was possible seizure by the Federal Government, which caused him to conceal the coins which he knew had a highly questionable origin and status.

Taken For a Ride

In the discussion of the acquisition by Stickney of his 1804 Class I dollar from the United States Mint it was indicated that he took a horse drawn stage coach from New York to Phila-

delphia to make the exchange (p.73). Harold S.Bareford, owner of the Dexter 1804 Class I dollar, in a talk before the Metropolitan New York Coin Convention held May 2-5, 1963, properly pointed out that railroad service was available to Stickney. (Numismatic News, May 27, 1963, p. 50). Because the authors were not well enough "trained" in travel history, readers of The Fantastic 1804 Dollar may have been "taken for a ride" in this minor respect. This correction, however, cannot "railroad" readers into modifying their understanding that Stickney acted with reckless speed in parting with a unique Immune Columbia gold piece contrary to his statement that he did not part with any coins which were not duplicates, and that he tried to justify his action as honorable by stating ~~that~~ in 1843/an 1804 dollar was not considered any more valuable than a dollar of any other date, etc. (p.72).

Shunned

It is interesting to note that The Fantastic 1804 Dollar received <sup>a subsequent</sup> ~~no~~ attention in the sale catalogue description of two coins which were extensively discussed in the book. It is not of importance that the book was not mentioned, but that many important facts in the book were ignored and were available.

The Edge Lettering Device

Since the Castaing machine, being the device for lettering planchet edges, is so important to the study of the 1804 Dollar (p.27), another eighteenth century explanation of edge lettering is both corroborative and clarifying. The first encyclopaedia published in America was primarily a reprint of the third edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The American publication was printed in Philadelphia, in parts, beginning in 1790 and being completed by 1798 which latter date it bears. The article on Coinage was of English origin and was written before the United States Mint was established. The portion relating to the Castaing machine (Vol. 5, p.130) reads as follows:

"The principal pieces of the machine (Fig. 1) to stamp coins on the edge, are two steel laminae, about a line thick. One half of the legend, or of the ring, is engraved upon the thickness of one of the laminae, and the other half on the thickness of the other; and these two laminae are straight, although the planchet marked with them be circular.

"when they stamp a planchet, they first put it between the laminae in such a manner, as that these being each of them laid flat upon a copper-plate, which is fastened upon a very thick wooden table, and the planchet being likewise laid flat upon the same plate, the edge of the planchet may touch the two laminae on each side, and in their thick part.

"One of these laminae is immovable, and fastened with several screws; the other slides by means of a dented wheel, which takes into the teeth that are on the surface of the laminae on each side. This sliding lamina makes the planchet turn in such a manner that it remains stamped upon the edge when it has made one turn. Only crown and half-crown pieces can bear the impression of letters on the thickness of their edges."

A crude illustration of the Castaing machine is found on Plate 144 following Vol. 5, p. 284 in that encyclopaedia, and merely corroborates the <sup>method of operation</sup> ~~description and illustration~~ ~~THE FANTASY - See below (p. 284)~~.

When an 1803 proof dollar (B-7) was offered for sale as Lot 3049 in the catalogue of an auction held January 7, 1963, there was an extensive description of the coin but there was no mention of any of the facts set out in the book relating to the coin's origin or its characteristics which indicated that its dies were made long after its date and that it was struck long after its date.

When the Davis 1804 Class III dollar was auctioned as Lot 1394 in the Wolfson Sale held May 3-4, 1963, the five page description in the catalogue did not include any mention of certain important facts about the coin included in the book. ~~This situation was pointed out incisively in~~ ~~a Letter to the Editor of Coin World (May 10, 1963,~~ p.58), a reader commented: "Nowhere in the dealer's five page description is it mentioned that the coin is a restrike. Nowhere is it mentioned that the coin was struck about 40 to 50 years after it was dated." ~~The points raised by that letter seem to be well taken.~~

#### Additional 1804 Alterations

The most "dated" 1804 Dollar alterations is one which purports to be an 1804 dollar over an 1802 over an 1801. It

was described in Coin World, July 5, 1963, p. 63, and then advertised for trade in that paper on July 19, 1963, p. 87. This piece was properly described as an impossible coin by Don Taxay in Coin Wholesaler for October 16, 1963, and is readily recog-

nized as an alteration of an 1802 over ~~1803~~ <sup>1801</sup> Dollar (B-5). ~~The coin will not~~ <sup>Fortunately,</sup> There is an 1804 dollar in the Newark Museum, Newark,

New Jersey, in the large collection donated by Frank Liveright.

It is illustrated in the magazine (The Museum), Vol. 12, No. 3

(1960) p. 19) as though it were a genuine piece. This coin is

likewise one of the many alterations which continue to deceive.

In 1962 type metal castings of an altered 1804 dollar were offered to dealers and collectors. The word REPLICA was incuse on the obverse under the curls. These forgeries weighed averaged about 335 grains in weight and had a specific gravity of 10.4. The U.S. Secret Service confiscated as many as could be located.  
Electrotypes From Class III Pieces

Interesting comments concerning electrotypes of 1804 dollars were made in sales catalogues prepared by Edward Cogan.

In his September 16, 1878 sale, Lot 509 was an electrotype of an 1804 dollar described as "Taken from a die made in 1858 and really more interesting than the altered dates." Cogan meant to say that it was the coin, not the die, which was minted in 1858, as the electrotype was made from the coin. Cogan corrected himself in his catalogue of the sale on December 16, 1878 of the James E. Root collection where he described a dollar in Lot 59 as "1804 electrotype. Taken from a dollar struck in 1858."



Bill Higbie, Numismatic News, Mar. 4, 1963, p. 5;

James C. Risk, The Numismatic Review, Vol. III, No. 5,  
p. 275;

Glenn B. Smedley, The Numismatist, Vol. 75, No. 12,  
(Dec. 1962), p. 1615;

David B. Spink and James C. Risk, "New Facts about an  
Old American Coin", The Numismatist, Vol. 75, No. 11  
(Nov. 1962) p. 1443;

Don Taxay, Counterfeit, Mis-Struck and Unofficial  
U. S. Coins (New York, 1963), pp. 84, 215;

Raymond H. Williamson, Coin World, Jan. 18, 1963, p. 57;

Richard S. Yeoman, Coin World, Oct. 12, 1962, p. 37.

#### Typographical Errors

The following typographical errors <sup>in the book</sup> are noted:

Page 31, line 21: J. P. Droz instead of H. F. Droz

Page 70: Caption to illustration should read:

Quarter Eagle with motto instead of Half Eagle with motto.

Page 84, line 5: James R. Snowden instead of John R. Snowden.

Page 143: J. P. Droz instead of H. P. Droz.

UPDATING THE FANTASTIC 1804 DOLLAR

by Eric P. Newman

Whenever a book is written, particularly when on a controversial subject, readers have the opportunity to make their comments in reviews, letters, books, articles, and by discussion. With respect to "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" there was no dearth of such commentary. The authors likewise continued their research. Readers are therefore entitled to have a summary of all such matters to amplify and clarify the book. To coordinate these items references are given to the specific pages where related matter is found in the book.

The Siam 1804 Dollar

In the summer of 1962, in England, David Spink arranged for the writer to have the opportunity to examine the Siam specimen of the 1804 Dollar along with the case and the other presentation coins. (The Numismatist, December, 1962, p. 1610; Coin World, December 14, 1962, p. 42). It was noted that the Siam specimen was so clear that it showed that the reverse die break extended further than was noticeable on other Class I pieces (p.42). This die break across the top of UNITED continues across the top of the wing tip and under the first S in STATES,

and was certainly caused by hardening of the die by immersion rather than in the course of the use of the die. All other characteristics of the Siam Dollar conformed with those of other Class I pieces. The weak and crushed edge lettering reads upright when the obverse is upright.

The revelation in 1962 of the 1804 Siam dollar in its presentation set (p.66) will rank as one of the great surprises in American numismatics and its publication deservedly received the Heath Literary Award. (David B. Spink and James C. Risk, "New Facts about an Old American Coin", *The Numismatist*, Vol. 75, No. 11, Nov. 1962, p. 1443; *The Numismatic Review*, Vol. III, No. 5, 1962, p. 217).

#### The Siam Coffin

The Presentation case holding the coins for the King of Siam was an attractive piece of morocco leather workmanship embossed with an American eagle and other insignia. The original yellow color has darkened where exposed to a dull golden brown color. Its dimensions are 6-1/8 inches long, 4-5/16 inches deep, and 1-1/16 inches high, and it has a seven pointed gold thumb piece for opening. Under the leather, the body of the

Presentation case is wood which is lined on the inside with dark blue velvet so that the original official reference to the case as a "coffin" was gruesomely accurate. (See illustration of the top).

#### Authorization Problems

As to whether anyone had specifically intended a silver dollar or an eagle, or both, to be included in the set of coins to be presented to the King of Siam and the Imaum of Muscat, it was important to check on the authorization for the language of the letter dated November 11, 1834 from the Secretary of State to the Director of the Mint (p.63) where it was said that "The President has directed that a complete set of the coins of the United States be sent to the King of Siam and another to the Sultan of Muscat."

An examination of the papers of Andrew Jackson, in the Library of Congress and in the Archives of the United States, disclosed no written directive, instruction, or comment relative to the gift of coins. The communication from the President to the Secretary of State, therefore, must have been oral.

The question as to whether Mint officials were authorized, in 1834, to prepare new dies for an 1804 dollar and for an 1804 eagle depends upon the meaning of the words "complete set" and "specimens of each kind now in use". It was shown in the discussion of this matter (p.64) that silver dollars and eagles were not actually in use in November, 1834.

Assuming the directive was interpreted to require a dollar and an eagle to be included in the set this could have been satisfied (1) by including an existing dollar and an existing eagle of any date in choice condition, and (2) by making new dies for both a dollar and an eagle, dating them 1834, and striking coins from them of proper weight and fineness.

The opportunity to study the Siam presentation set served to prove that the proof 1804 eagle was made for the set and weighed  $270\frac{1}{2}$ . It therefore was made in violation of the Act of June 28, 1834, (effective July 31, 1834) requiring any eagle to weigh only 258 grains. The proof 1804 Eagle, even though minted during November or December, 1834, was sized according to the repealed standard of the Act of April 2, 1792 which had provided that an eagle weigh 270 grains. The proof 1804 Eagle, therefore, violated the Act of June 28, 1834. The

legal standard for the weight of the silver dollar had not been changed between 1804 and 1834.

Neither the President, the Secretary of State, Director of the Mint, or any other person in the public service had the power to violate any Act of Congress relating to coinage. It would therefore appear that the Mint officials exceeded their authority and violated the law (a) in placing other than the current date on coinage when, in 1834, they minted a proof 1804 Dollar and a proof 1804 Eagle, and (b) in using other than the proper legal weight in making the proof 1804 Eagle. They had devilment in their hearts when they did it.

#### Proof 1804 Eagle

The second highest star on the left side of the proof 1804 Eagle in the Siam set has a double cut point at 4 o'clock as do the other specimens struck from these antedated dies. The proof 1804 Eagle has identical edge milling to the half eagle, quarter eagle, quarter, and dime in the Presentation set indicating that the same edging dies were used in the Castaing machine for all of them. The proof 1804 Eagle was not struck in a collar die as evidenced by the fact that the

\*

dentils on the right side of the obverse are larger than the dentils on the left, which would not occur in a piece struck in a collar die because centering would be perfect. There is no wire edge on the coin and the statements on page 57 of the book that the eagle was collar struck and had a wire edge can now be corrected.

The DuBois Letter

The letter of William E. DuBois dated September 17, 1878 (p.96) giving an opinion on the Davis 1804 Class III dollar was illustrated and featured in the descriptive material in the sale of the Samuel W. Wolfson collection, held May 3-4, 1963, just as it was in the prior sales of the Davis 1804 dollar on April 8, 1954 and December 10, 1960. A further analysis seems appropriate as to how William E. DuBois made the error of diagnosing the Davis dollar as "one of the original issue - and not a 'restrike' from Mint dies."

The letter clearly shows that DuBois knew that there were two "specimens" of the 1804 dollar in the Mint Cabinet, one being a restrike (Class II) and the other being what DuBois termed an "original" (Class I). He was apparently unaware

that the reverse of the Davis dollar was from the same reverse die as the reverse of the Class II or restrike 1804 dollar in the Mint Cabinet and differed from the reverse die of the Class I piece. This die distinction, apparently, had not been noticed by 1878 when he wrote the letter, as Haseltine did not even note this fact in 1881 in his classification of dollar die varieties (p.91). It is possible that DuBois based his opinion as to the Davis piece on the fact that the Davis piece had a lettered edge just as the Class I Mint specimen did, whereas the Class II Mint specimen did not have a lettered edge. This does not excuse DuBois from being deliberately deceptive in the use of the words "original issue" even if he was in error in the conclusion he drew from the comparison of the Davis Dollar with the two Mint Cabinet specimens. He must have known the whole story of the origin of the 1804 dollars and should have used less whitewash.

Barnum was Right

The Watters Class I 1804 Dollar which was originally given to the Imam of Muscat (pp.67,126) was the topic of a conversation, in England, in 1962, between Fred Baldwin and

the writer. Baldwin explained that Watters bought the 1804 Dollar for six shillings from Maurice Eschwegge, a money changer, pawn broker, and coin dealer at 47 Lime Street, Liverpool. Most English ships docked at Liverpool in the 19th Century and some sailor or voyageur probably sold the coin for silver value at Eschwegge's exchange. Phineas T. Barnum, the great American showman, tried relentlessly to buy the coin from Watters for a spectacular exhibit in America, but Watters explained that the dollar would not be sold for any price since it was bought for practically nothing. Baldwin knew Watters well and had seen the 1804 dollar in his possession almost 60 years before.

#### Seizure Fears

In the 1864-5 period Edouard Frossard urged the prominent Philadelphia coin dealers to publish the whole truth about the restrikes of the 1804 dollars (p.91). John W. Haseltine and the Chapman Brothers were thus challenged but, nevertheless, remained silent. Twenty-three years later, at the 1908 American Numismatic Association Convention, Haseltine gave the explanation as to why he did not respond. He explained (The Numismatist, Vol. 21, No. 10, Oct. 1907, p.325): "Mr. Idler was my father-

\*

in-law and he was very reticent about his collection. He would seldom show his coins even for sale. This was partially caused by the fear that any pattern or experimental coins he possessed might be seized. Hence the many remarkable pieces that have been found in his collection."

The fear of seizure could only exist because of Idler's knowledge of the improper activities of the Mint employes. He was the sales outlet for the Mint officials. Three 1804 dollars appeared first in Idler's hands (p.107). Thus, Idler's and Haseltine's real reason for failure to disclose the existence of the Idler 1804 Class III dollar until 1908 is clear and the other allegation of Haseltine that it was concealed because it was used for making restrikes was a lame excuse (p. 107). It was possible seizure by the Federal Government, which caused him to conceal the coins which he knew had a highly questionable status.

#### Taken For a Ride

In the discussion of the acquisition by Stickney of his 1804 Class I dollar from the United States Mint it was indicated that he took a horse drawn stage coach from New York to Phila-

\*

adelphia to make the exchange (p.73). Harold S. Bareford, owner of the Dexter 1804 Class I dollar, in a talk before the Metropolitan New York Coin Convention held May 2-5, 1963, properly pointed out that railroad service was available to Stickney. (Numismatic News, May 27, 1963, p. 50). Because the authors were not well enough "trained" in travel history, readers of The Fantastic 1804 Dollar may have been "taken for a ride" in this minor respect. This correction, however, cannot "railroad" readers into modifying their understanding that Stickney acted with reckless speed in parting with a unique Immune Columbia gold piece contrary to his statement that he did not part with any coins which were not duplicates, and that he tried to justify his action as honorable by stating that in 1843 an 1804 dollar was not considered any more valuable than a dollar of any other date, etc. (p.72).

Shunned

It is interesting to note that The Fantastic 1804 Dollar has been ignored in the sale catalogue description of two coins which were extensively discussed in the book. It is not of importance that the book was not mentioned, but that many important facts in the book were ignored and were available.

When an 1803 proof dollar (B-7) was offered for sale as Lot 3049 in the catalogue of an auction held January 7, 1963, there was an extensive description of the coin but there was no mention of any of the facts set out in the book relating to the coin's origin or its characteristics which indicated that its dies were made long after its date and that it was struck long after its date.

When the Davis 1804 Class III dollar was auctioned as Lot 1394 in the Wolfson Sale held May 3-4, 1963, the five page description in the catalogue did not include any mention of certain important facts about the coin included in the book.

In a Letter to the Editor of Coin World (May 10, 1963, p.58), a reader commented: "Nowhere in the dealer's five page description is it mentioned that the coin is a restrike. Nowhere is it mentioned that the coin was struck about 40 to 50 years after it was dated." The points raised by that letter seem to be well taken.

#### Additional 1804 Alterations

The most "dated" 1804 Dollar alterations is one which purports to be an 1804 dollar over an 1802 over an 1801. It

\*

was described in Coin World, July 5, 1963, p. 63, and then advertised for trade in that paper on July 19, 1963, p. 87. This piece was properly described as an impossible coin by Don Taxay in Coin Wholesaler for October 16, 1963, and is readily recognized as an alteration of an 1802 over 1802 Dollar (B-5).

There is an 1804 dollar in the Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey, in the large collection donated by Frank Liveright. It is illustrated in the magazine, The Museum, Vol. 12, No. 3 (1960), p. 19 as though it were a genuine piece. This coin is likewise one of the many alterations which continue to deceive.

#### Electrotypes From Class III Pieces

Interesting comments concerning electrotypes of 1804 dollars were made in sales catalogues prepared by Edward Cogan. In his September 16, 1878 sale, Lot 509 was an electrotyle of an 1804 dollar described as "Taken from a die made in 1858 and really more interesting than the altered dates." Cogan meant to say that it was the coin, not the die, which was minted in 1858, as the electrotyle was made from the coin. Cogan corrected himself in his catalogue of the sale on December 16, 1878 of the James E. Root collection where he described a dollar in Lot 59 as "1804 electrotyle. Taken from a dollar struck in 1858."

Changes of Ownership

When the Davis Class III 1804 Dollar in the Samuel W. Wolfson Collection (p.133) was auctioned on May 4, 1963, the high bid was \$36,000.00. No disclosure of the name of any new owner has apparently been made.

There also has been no disclosure of the owner of the Idler Class III 1804 Dollar (p.137) which was auctioned in 1961.

Appreciation

In addition to many kind letters which the authors received, the following Published comments about "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" are also most appreciated:

Lucinda Benzel, St. Louis Post Dispatch, Jan. 28, 1963,  
p. B 1;

Elston Bradfield, The Numismatist, Vol. 75, No. 11,  
(Nov. 1962), p. 1474;

Richard P. Breadon, Numismatic Literature, No. 63,  
(April, 1963), p. 549;

Walter Breen, "The Collector's Necessary Equipment",  
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, March, 1963, p. 657;

Oscar H. Dodson, Coin World, August 2, 1963, p. 48;

Lynn Glaser, "Numismatically Speaking", Numismatic News, Jan. 21, 1963, p. 30;

Lincoln Grahams, New York Times, [REDACTED]  
Oct. 21, 1962, p. X26, and New York Times International  
Edition, Oct. 22, 1962;

Bill Higbie, Numismatic News, Mar. 4, 1963, p. 5;

James C. Risk, The Numismatic Review, Vol. III, No. 5,  
p. 275;

Glenn B. Smedley, The Numismatist, Vol. 75, No. 12,  
(Dec. 1962), p. 1615;

David B. Spink and James C. Risk, "New Facts about an  
Old American Coin", The Numismatist, Vol. 75, No. 11  
(Nov. 1962) p. 1443;

Don Taxay, Counterfeit, Mis-Struck and Unofficial  
U. S. Coins (New York, 1963), pp. 84, 215;

Raymond W. Williamson, Coin World, Jan. 18, 1963, p. 57;

Richard S. Yeoman, Coin World, Oct. 12, 1962, p. 37.

#### Typographical Errors

The following typographical errors are noted:

Page 31, line 21: J. P. Dros instead of H.P.Dros

Page 70: Caption to illustration should read:

Quarter Eagle with motto instead of Half Eagle with motto.

Page 84, line 5: James R. Snowden instead of John R. Snowden.

Page 113: J. P. Dros instead of H. P. Dros.

UPDATING THE FANTASTIC 1804 DOLLAR

by Eric P. Newman

Whenever a book is written, particularly when on a controversial subject, readers have the opportunity to make their comments in reviews, letters, books, articles, and by discussion. With respect to "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" there was no dearth of such commentary. The authors likewise continued their research. Readers are therefore entitled to have a summary of all such matters to amplify and clarify the book. To coordinate these items references are given to the specific pages where related matter is found in the book.

The Siam 1804 Dollar

In the summer of 1962, in England, David Spink arranged for the writer to have the opportunity to examine the Siam specimen of the 1804 Dollar along with ~~the case and the other~~ ~~and the seal~~ ~~and the certificate~~, presentation coins, (The Numismatist, December, 1962, p. 1610; Coin World, December 14, 1962, p. 42). It was noted that the Siam specimen was so clear that it showed that the reverse die break extended further than was noticeable on other Class I pieces (p.42). This die break across the top of UNITED continues across the top of the wing tip and under the first S in STATES. ✓

~~and~~ was certainly caused ~~by~~ hardening of the die by immersion in liquid  
rather than in the course of the use of the die. All other  
characteristics of the Siam Dollar conformed with those of other  
Class I pieces. The weak and crushed edge lettering reads up-  
right when the obverse is upright.

The revelation in 1962 of the 1804 Siam dollar in its presentation set (p.66) will rank as one of the great surprises in American numismatics and its publication deservedly received the Heath Literary Award. (David B. Spink and James C. Risk, "New Facts about an Old American Coin", The Numismatist, Vol. 75, No. 11, Nov. 1962, p. 1443; The Numismatic Review, Vol. III, No. 5, 1962, p. 217).

#### The Siam Coffin

The Presentation Case holding the coins for the King of Siam was an attractive piece of morocco leather workmanship embossed with an American eagle and other insignia. The original yellow color has darkened where exposed to a dull golden brown color. Its dimensions are 6-1/8 inches long, 4-5/16 inches deep, and 1-1/16 inches high, and ~~it~~ has a seven pointed gold thumb piece for opening. <sup>Beneath</sup> ~~Under~~ the leather, the body of the

legal standard for the weight of the silver dollar had not been changed between 1804 and 1834.

Neither the President, the Secretary of State, Director of the Mint, or any other person in the public service had the power to violate any Act of Congress relating to coinage. It would therefore appear that the Mint officials exceeded their authority and violated the law (a) in placing other than the current date on coinage when, in 1834, they minted a proof 1804 Dollar and a proof 1804 Eagle, and (b) in using other than the proper legal weight in making the proof 1804 Eagle. They had

devilment in their hearts when they did it. *The fact that*

*Specimen S-201,*

Proof 1804 Eagle

*The proof 1804 eagle is the distinctive untille  
the second highest star on the left side of the proof*

1804 Eagle in the Siam set has a double cut point at 4 o'clock

as do the other specimens struck from these antedated dies.

*The proof 1804 Eagle has identical edge milling to the half eagle, quarter eagle, quarter, and dime in the Presentation set indicating that the same edging dies were used in the Castaing machine for all of them. The proof 1804 Eagle was not struck in a collar die as evidenced by the fact that the*

dentils on the right side of the obverse are larger than the dentils on the left, which would not occur in a piece struck in a collar die because centering would be perfect. There is no wire edge on the coin and the statement ~~on page 57~~ of the book (p.57) that the eagle was collar struck and had a wire edge can now be corrected.

#### The DuBois Letter

The letter of William E. DuBois dated September 17, 1878 (p.96) giving an opinion on the Davis 1804 Class III dollar was illustrated and featured in the descriptive material in the sale of the Samuel W. Wolfson collection, held May 3-4, 1963, just as it was in the prior sales of the Davis 1804 dollar on April 8, 1954 and December 10, 1960. A further analysis seems appropriate as to how William E. DuBois made the error of diagnosing the Davis dollar as "one of the original issue - and not a 'restrike' from Mint dies."

The letter clearly shows that DuBois knew that there were two "specimens" of the 1804 dollar in the Mint Cabinet, one being a restrike (Class II) and the other being what DuBois termed an "original" (Class I). He was apparently unaware

### The Edge Lettering Device

Since the Castaing machine, being the device for lettering planchet edges, is so important to the study of the 1804 Dollar (p.27), another eighteenth century explanation of edge lettering is both corroborative and clarifying. The first encyclopaedia published in America was primarily a reprint of the third edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The American publication was printed in Philadelphia, in parts, beginning in 1790 and being completed by 1798 which latter date it bears. The article on Coinage was of English origin and was written before the United States Mint was established. The portion relating to the Castaing machine (Vol. 5, p.130) reads as follows:

"The principal pieces of the machine (Fig. 1) to stamp coins on the edge, are two steel laminae, about a line thick. One half of the legend, or of the ring, is engraved upon the thickness of one of the laminae, and the other half on the thickness of the other; and these two laminae are straight, although the planchet marked with them be circular.

"when they stamp a planchet, they first put it between the laminae in such a manner, as that these being each of them laid flat upon a copper-plate, which is fastened upon a very thick wooden table, and the planchet being likewise laid flat upon the same plate, the edge of the planchet may touch the two laminae on each side, and in their thick part.

"One of these laminae is immovable, and fastened with several screws; the other slides by means of a dented wheel, which takes into the teeth that are on the surface of the laminae on each side. This sliding lamina makes the planchet turn in such a manner that it remains stamped upon the edge when it has made one turn. Only crown and half-crown pieces can bear the impression of letters on the thickness of their edges."

A crude illustration of the Castaing machine is found on Plate 144 following Vol. 5, p. 284 in that encyclopaedia.

4

1858 Mint Regulations

If there is any doubt that it was improper, in 1858, to strike 1804 dollars, or any other coin to be sold at a premium (p.75), the regulations issued by the Mint before the discovery of the Class II 1804 dollars are revealing. Pertinent portions of INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE TO THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS BRANCHES, published in 1858, by James Ross Snowden, Director of the Mint, are as follows:

" 8. No profit can accrue to any officer, clerk, or workman of these institutions, by reasons of the legitimate operations thereof, and no private or extra official work can be done therein, with or without compensation or reward, by any such officer, clerk, or workman. If this rule be violated by any officer or clerk, the fact shall be reported to the Treasury Department. If violated by any workman, he will be forthwith dismissed.

" 16. The principal officer of each department of business will report to the Director (or Superintendent) any instance of neglect of duty, or want of fidelity, in any of the persons employed in his department, and also make a like report if he has reason to suspect the integrity of any person so employed."

In spite of the exposure of the scandal of 1858 relating to the 1804 dollar, and the requirements of the regulations, there is no official report of the matter to be found and no dismissal of personnel resulted.

All coins found in the Siam Presentation Set have brilliant proof surfaces. They weigh as follows:

1834 Half Cent	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	grains
1834 Cent	159-1/2	"
1834 Dime	12-3/4	"
1834 Quarter	103-1/4	"
1834 Half Dollar	208-3/4	"
1804 Dollar	11-1/2	"
1834 Quarter Eagle	64-3/4	"
1834 Half Eagle	134-1/4	"
1804 Eagle	270-1/2	"

The half dollar has a normal milled edge and its border dentilation extends to the edge on each face. It is from different dies than the proof 1834 half dollar with crushed edge 1834 dollar 1804 eagle.

All coins found in the Siam Presentation Set have brilliant proof surfaces. They weigh as follows:

1834 Half Cent	35	grains
1834 Cent	159-1/2	"
1834 Dime	42-3/4	"
1834 Quarter	103-1/4	"
1834 Half Dollar	208-3/4	"
1804 Dollar	415-1/2	"
1834 Quarter Eagle	64-3/4	"
1834 Half Eagle	128-3/4	"
1804 Eagle	270-1/2	"

The half dollar has a normal milled edge and the border dentilation extends to the edge on each face. It is from different dies than the proof 1834 half dollar with serrated edge lettering. (p.59).

11/29/63

THE SIAM COFFIN

The Presentation case was an attractive piece of

Morocco leather workmanship embossed with an American eagle.

The original yellow color had darkened from exposure to a

dull golden color. It was measured to be 4-5/16" x

and 1-1/16" and had a seven pointed gold thumb piece for opening.

Under the leather, the body of the Presentation case is wood

which is lined on the inside with dark blue velvet so that

the original official reference to the case as a "coffin"

was gruesomely accurate.

11/29/63

## THE SIAM DOLLAR

In the summer of 1962, in England, David Spink arranged for the writer to have the opportunity to examine the Siam specimen of the 1804 Dollar along with the case and the other Presentation coins. (The Numismatist, December, 1962, p. 1610; Coin World, December 14, 1962, p. 42). It was noted that the break of the Siam specimen was so clear that it showed that the die break extended further than was noticeable on other Class I pieces (p.42). This die break across the top of UNITED extended across the top of the wing tip and under the first S in STATES, ~~This die break~~ was caused by hardening of the die by immersion rather than in the course of the use of the die. Every other characteristic of the Siam Dollar checked with the other Class I pieces. The weak and crushed edge lettering reads upright when the obverse is upright.

November 29, 1963

AUTHORIZING PROBLEMS

As to whether anyone had specifically authorized a silver dollar or an eagle, or both, to be included in the set of coins to be presented to the King of Siam and the Imaum of Muscat, it was important to check on the authorization for the letter dated November 11, 1834 from the Secretary of State to the Director of the Mint (p. 63) where it was said "The President has directed that a complete set of the coins of the United States be sent to the King of Siam and another to the Sultan of Muscat.

An examination of the Andrew Jackson Papers, in the Library of Congress, as well as in the Archives of the United States, disclosed no written directive, instruction, or comment relative to the gift of coins. The communication from the President to the Secretary of State, therefore, must have been oral.

The question is whether the Mint officials were authorized, in 1834, to prepare the dies for an 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar and for an 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  eagle involves on the meaning of the words "complete set" and "specimens of each kind now in use". It was shown in the discussion of this matter (p.64) that silver dollars and eagles were not in use in November, 1834.

The opportunity to study the Siam ~~and~~ brought to ~~was made for the set and~~ that the proof 180 $\frac{1}{2}$  eagle weighed 270 $\frac{1}{2}$  grains ~~and~~,

enclt X

(3B)

Assuming the direction was interpreted  
to require a dollar and an eagle to be included  
in the set this could have been satisfied

2. By making a new design for ~~a dollar~~  
a dollar and an ~~eagle~~ eagle ~~dating~~ dating them 1834, and  
<sup>stupendous</sup> including two of people of 1776 and 1834,  
1. By including an ~~old~~ <sup>new</sup> dollar and an  
existing eagle in their condition.

11/29/63

therefore, made in violation of the Act of June 28, 1834, (effective July 31, 1834) requiring any eagle to weigh 258 grains. The proof 1804 Eagle, ~~made~~, during November or December, 1834, was sized according to the standard of the Act of April 2, 1792 which provided for a weight of 270 grains. The proof 1804 Eagle, therefore, violated the law. The legal standard for the weight of the silver dollar had not been changed between 1804 and 1834. Neither the President, the Secretary of State, Director of the Mint, or any other person in the public service had the power to violate any Act of Congress relating to coinage. It would therefore appear that the Mint officials exceeded their authority and violated the law as to design in making the 1804 Dollar and the proof 1804 Eagle, and violated the law as to weight in making the 1804 Eagle. They ~~had~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>not</sup> be held liable ~~for~~ <sup>in</sup> this ~~but~~ <sup>they did</sup>.

11/29/63 \*

PROOF 1804 EAGLE

The second highest star on the left side of the proof 1804 Eagle in the Siam set has a double cut point at 4 o'clock as do the other specimens struck from these antedated dies. The proof 1804 Eagle has identical edge milling to the half eagle, quarter eagle, quarter and dime in the Presentation Set indicating that the same edging dies were used in the Castaing machine for all of them. The proof 1804 Eagle was not struck in a collar die as evidenced by the fact that the dentils on the right side of the obverse are larger than the dentils on the left, which would not occur in a piece struck in a collar die. There is no wire edge --- the coin and the statements on page 57 of the book that the eagle was collar struck and had a wire edge ~~are~~ now corrected.

Class I Mint specimen did, whereas the Class II Mint specimen did not have a lettered edge. This does not excuse DuBois from being deliberately deceptive in the use of the words "original issue" even if he was in error in the conclusion he drew from the comparison of the Davis Dollar with the two Mint

Cabinet specimens. He ~~told~~, the whole story of the origin of the 1880 dollar.

In the Wolfson Sale Catalogue the description of the

1880 Class II dollar is five pages in length. In a letter to the editor of Coin World May 10, 1963, no. 581, a reader reproduced this in the dealer's five page description.

It is mentioned that the coin is a rarity. No place is it mentioned that the coin was struck about 40 to 50 years after it was minted. Some coins were rehuboated and were in-

cluded in the sale. The description of the coin ~~was~~ was not accurate enough.

The ~~same~~ ~~specimen~~ ~~letter~~ ~~the~~ ~~points~~ ~~are~~ ~~all~~ ~~taken~~ ~~the~~ ~~points~~ ~~are~~ ~~all~~ ~~taken~~

11/1/63

THE DU BOIS CLASSIFICATION

The letter from William E. DuBois dated September 17,  
~~(P. 16) giving an opinion on~~ ~~(1878)~~ ~~(1878/94)~~ the Davis 1804 Class III dollar was again

illustrated and featured in the descriptive material in the  
~~May 30, 1960~~ sale of the Samuel W. Wolfson collection just as  
it was in the prior sales of the Davis 1804 dollar on April 8,  
1954 and December 10, 1960. A further analysis seems approp-

riate as to how William E. DuBois made the error of diagnosing  
the Davis dollar as "one of original issue - and not a restrike".

The letter clearly shows that DuBois knew that there  
were two "specimens" of the 1804 dollar in the Mint Cabinet, one  
being a restrike (Class II) and the other ~~(Class I)~~ ~~that~~ DuBois  
termed "original". He was apparently unaware that the reverse  
of the Davis dollar was from the same reverse die as the reverse  
of the Class II or restrike dollar in the Mint Cabinet and  
differed from the reverse die of the Class I piece. This die  
distinction, apparently, had not been noticed by 1878 when he  
wrote the letter, Haseltine did not note this fact in 1881 in  
his classification of dollar die varieties (~~91~~ 91). It is ~~possible~~  
~~possibly~~ that DuBois based his opinion as to the Davis piece on  
the fact that the Davis piece had a lettered edge just as the

11/29/63

The Watters Class I 1804 Dollar which was originally given to the Imam of Muscat (pp. 67, 126) was the topic of a conversation, in England, in 1962, between Fred Baldwin and the writer. Baldwin explained that Watters bought the 1804 Dollar for six shillings from Maurice Eschwegge, a money changer, pawn broker, and coin dealer at 47 Lime Street, Liverpool. Most ships docked at Liverpool in the 19th Century and some sailor or voyageur probably sold it for silver value at Eschwegge's exchange. P.T. Barnum, ~~operating~~ the American Museum, ~~successfully~~ tried to buy the coin from Watters for a spectacular exhibit in America, but Watters ~~said~~ that he would not sell it at any price since ~~he~~ bought it for practically nothing. Baldwin knew Watters well and had seen the 1804 dollar in his possession almost 60 years ago.

11/1/63

**SEIZURE FINES**

In the 1884-5 period Edouard Frossard urged the prominent Philadelphia coin dealers to publish the whole truth about the restrikes of the 1804 dollars (page 91). John W. Haseltine and the Chapman Brothers were thus challenged but, nevertheless, remained silent. Twenty-three years later, at the 1908 American Numismatic Association Convention, Haseltine gave the explanation as to why he did not respond. He explained (The Numismatist, Vol. 21, No. 10, Oct. 1907, p. 325): "Mr. Idler was my father-in-law and he was very reticent about his collection. He would seldom show his coins even for sale. This was partially caused by the fear that any pattern or experimental coins he possessed might be seized. Hence the many remarkable pieces that have been found in his collection." The fear of seizure could only exist because of Idler's knowledge of the improper activities of the Mint employes ~~with whom he connived~~. He was the sales outlet for the Mint officials. Three 1804 dollars appeared first in Idler's hands (page 107). Thus, Idler's and Haseltine's real reason for failure to disclose the existence of the Idler 1804 Class III Dollar until 1908 became clear and the <sup>the</sup> allegation ~~of~~ <sup>other</sup> Haseltine that it was concealed because it was used for making restrikes was a lame excuse (page 107). It was seizure by the Federal Government which caused him to conceal the coins <sup>which</sup> he knew had a highly questionable status.

11/29/65

40

TAKEN FOR A RIDE

In the discussion of the acquisition of the Stickney  
gold Gilt & Silver from the United States Mint it was indicated  
that ~~Stickney~~ had a horse drawn stage coach to Philadelphia  
to make the exchange (p. 7). Harold S. Barnford, owner of the  
People's Gold Gilt & Silver, in a talk before the Metropolitan  
New York Numismatic Club May 1st, 1955, pointed out that  
~~Stickney~~ carried very little gold to Stickney. (Numismatic News,  
May 27, 1955, p. 10). As he has said The Fantastic Gold  
Gilt & Silver may have been taken for a ride because the  
authors were not well enough "trained" in travel history, but  
~~the correct "training"~~ makes no modification in con-  
clusions. The change in transcription did not change the  
speed with which Stickney acted, the inconsistency of his  
statements, or any of the conclusions to be drawn from his  
actions.

11/29/63 \*\*

SHUNNED

The Fantastic 1804 Dollar and its factual content

has been ignored in the description in sale catalogues of two coins which were extensively discussed in the book. Perhaps if the book had given a more complimentary background for the coins such shunning might not have taken place.

[ When an 1803 proof dollar (B-7) was offered for sale as Lot 3049 in the catalogue of an auction held January 7, 1963, there was an extensive description of the coin but there was no mention of any of the facts in the book about the coin's origin or its characteristics which indicated that its dies were made long after its date and that it was struck long after its date.

When the Davis 1804 Class III dollar was auctioned as Lot 1394 in the Wolfson Sale held May 3-4, 1963 the five page description in the catalogue did not include any mention of the book or of certain important facts about the coin included in the book.

In a letter to the Editor of Coin World (May 10, 1963, p.58), a reader commented: "Nowhere in the dealer's five page description is it mentioned that the coin is a restrike. Nowhere is it mentioned that the coin was struck about 40 to 50 years after it was dated." The points raised by that letter are well taken.

11/1/63

## ADDITIONAL ALTERATIONS

~~There are not so unusual alterations as an 1801 dollar over an 1802 over an 1801.~~

over an 1802 over an 1801 was described in Coin World, July 5, 1963, p. 63 and then advertised for trade in that paper on July 19, 1963, p. 87. This piece was properly described as an impossible coin by Don Taxay in Coin Wholesaler for October 16, 1963 and recognized as an alteration of an 1802 over 1801 Dollar (B-5).

~~There is an 1804 dollar in the Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey, in the large collection donated by Frank Liveright. It is illustrated in the magazine, The Museum, Vol. 12, No. 3 (1960), p. 19 as though it were a genuine piece. This coin is one of the many alterations which continue to deceive.~~

11/1/63

Electrotypes from Class III pieces

Interesting comments

~~Father~~ concerning electrotypes of 1804 dol-

lars ~~were~~ made in sales catalogues prepared by Edward Cogan.

In his September 16, 1878 sale, Lot 509 was an electrotype

of an 1804 dollar described as "Taken from a die made in 1858

and really more interesting than the altered dates."

~~Cogan meant to say that it was the coin,~~

~~he thought the dies for the 1804 dollar were made in 1858~~

~~and the die, from which the electrotype was made, was minted in 1858,~~ ~~as the~~

~~electrotype was made from the coin.~~

~~and not the die made then but Cogan corrected himself in his~~

~~on December 16, 1878~~

~~catalogue of the sale of the James E. Root collection~~

~~December 16, 1878 where he described the dollar in Lot 59 as~~

~~"1804 electrotype. Taken from a dollar struck in 1858."~~

(14)

11/29/63

\*

CHANGES OF OWNERSHIP

When the Davis Class III 1804 Dollar in the Samuel W. Wolfson Collection (p. 133) was auctioned on May 4, 1963, the highest bid was \$36,000.00. So far as can be ascertained, ~~there has been no~~ disclosure of the name of ~~the~~ <sup>any</sup> new owner ~~has~~ apparently been made.

There also has been no disclosure of the owner of the Idler Class III 1804 Dollar (p. 137) which was auctioned in 1961.

(15)

## APPRECIATION

Great numbers  
of letters are  
published only

In addition to many letters ~~and~~ the authors received  
much the authors received  
the following <sup>also</sup> don't "the Fantastic 1804 Dollar"  
Appreciation of Published comments, by the  
following persons are most appreciate <sup>by</sup> the authors.

- (5) X <sup>over</sup> O. H. Dodson, Coin World, August 2, 1963, p. 48;
- (1) X Glenn B. Smedley, The Nummatist (See, 1962), p. 1615;  
Vol. 75, No. 12.
- (9 1/2) X David B. Spinkle and James C. Rish, "New Facts about an old American Coin," The Nummatist, Vol. 75, No. 11 (Nov. 1962) P. 1443;
- (4) + Walter Breen, "How to Stay Ahead of the ~~Game~~"  
→ → The Collector's Necessary Equipment, "Numismatic Scrapbook Mag." <sup>1963, p. 657;</sup>
- (5) X Lynn Glaser, "Nummatically Funky," Numismatic News, Jan 21, 1963, p. 30;
- (2) X Elston Bradfield, The Nummatist (Nov 1962) p. 1474;  
Vol. 75, No. 11
- (10) X Don Towsay, ~~Has Since DIED~~ Counterfeit, Mrs. Struck and  
Unofficial U.S. Coins (New York, 1963), pp. 84, 215;
- (7 1/2) X Bill Higbie, Numismatic News, Mar. 4, 1963, p. 6;
- (8) X James C. Rish, The Nummatic Review, Vol III, No. 5. p. 275;
- (11) X Raymond H. Williamson, Coin World, Jan 18, 1963, p. 57;
- (12) + Richard Yeoman, Coin World, Oct. 12, 1962, p. 37.
- (1) + Lucinda Benzell, St Louis Post Dispatch, Jan. 28, 1963, p. B 1;
- (3) + Richard F. Bredon, Numismatic Literature, (April 1963), p. 549;  
No. 63
- (2) X Lincoln Grahams, New York Times, Oct. 21, 1962, p. X 26,  
and New York Times International Edition, Oct. 22, 1962;
- ~~Appreciation of letters, from the~~

16

Typographical Errors 11/1/63

The following typographical errors are noted:

Page 31, line 21 : J. P. Droz instead of H. P. Droz

Page 70: Caption to illustration should read

Quarter Eagle <sup>with motto</sup> instead of Half Eagle <sup>with motto</sup>.

Page 84, line 5: James R. Snowden instead of

John R. Snowden

Page 143: J. P. Droz instead of H. P. Droz

~~scribble~~